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Johannes Dux de Norfolk

Henricus vi



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Original Letters,

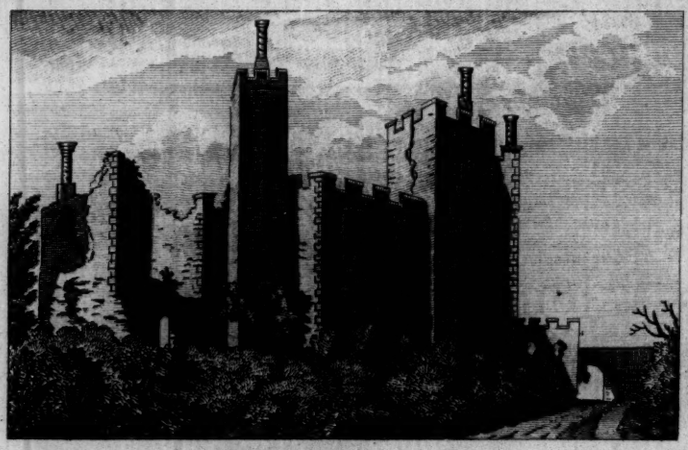
WRITTEN

DURING THE REIGNS OF

HENRY VI. EDWARD IV.

AND

RICHARD III.



Framlingham Castle.

LONDON,
Printed for G. G. J. and J. Robinson, in Pater-noster-Row, 1789.

ORIGINAL LETTERS,

Written during the REIGNS of

HENRY VI. EDWARD IV.

AND

RICHARD III.

By various Perſons of RANK or CONSEQUENCE;

CONTAINING

Many curious ANECDOTES, relative to that turbulent and bloody, but hitherto dark, PERIOD of our HISTORY;

AND

Elucidating, not only PUBLIC MATTERS of STATE, but likewiſe the PRIVATE MANNERS of the AGE:

Digeſted in CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER;

WITH

NOTES, Hiſtorical and Explanatory;

AND

Authenticated by Engravings of AUTOGRAPHS, FAC SIMILES, PAPER MARKS, and SEALS.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

By Sir JOHN FENN, Knight, M.A. and F.A.S.

"Tempora mutantur."

"Litera ſcripta manet."

VOL. III.

LONDON,
Printed for G. G. J. and J. ROBINSON, in Pater-noſter-Row.
MDCCLXXXIX.

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Many curious ANECDOTES, relating to that unfortunate and bloody

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PREFACE.

THE Editor hopes that the reception, which the former volumes of Original Letters met with, will be thought a ſufficient reaſon for the appearance of theſe; he apprehends, indeed, that he ſhould ſeem deficient in reſpect to the public if he did not continue his labours, as he has not only been honoured with Royal approbation, but likewiſe with marked attention from ſeveral of the firſt characters for literary productions, who have expreſſed their wiſhes that he ſhould proceed to publiſh the Original Manuſcripts ſtill remaining in his poſſeſſion. The Editor's reaſons for continuing the work.

In compliance, therefore, with ſuch flattering inducements, accompanied with the pleaſure which he receives from ſtudies and reſearches of this kind, he now ſends theſe volumes from the preſs.

When the Editor made his former arrangement, he chiefly ſelected thoſe letters which treated of public affairs and perſons of conſequence, conceiving, on the firſt production of this diſtant correſpondence, that ſuch were moſt likely to intereſt the reader in their favour; though he acknowledges himſelf ſo much of an antiquary, as The former volumes contained chiefly public letters.

to hold in equal eſtimation thoſe letters which relate to the private occurrences of theſe ancient times, of which our ideas are far from being either clear or ſatisfactory, he therefore ventured to mix a few of the latter; and from theſe ſpecimens ſome of his literary friends, and many learned individuals, to whoſe perſons he is altogether a ſtranger, have preſſed him to form the remaining ones for the Public on the ſame plan which he before purſued.

Theſe Letters being more private, are more difficult to elucidate.

The Letters which compoſe theſe volumes, conſiſt of ſuch as were written in the reign of Henry VI. and in the firſt ten years of that of Edward IV. and being of a more private nature than thoſe before given to the public, the Editor has found much greater difficulty in aſcertaining perſons, dates, and events, than he did in preparing thoſe which treated of well known tranſactions; he has, however, done his utmoſt to render them intelligible, and therefore hopes that his criticiſing reader, inſtead of carping at ſmall faults, will grant a proper indulgence for what he has endeavoured to do; aſſuring him that ſuch remarks and obſervations as have been ſent by ſome of the moſt able critics in this line of ſtudy, as well as thoſe offered in the various periodical publications, which he has had an opportunity of ſeeing, ſhall

Obſervations on the former volumes attended to.

not be diſregarded, ſhould his former volumes ever reach a third Edition, whenever, in his opinion, they have elucidated expreſſions, or aſcertained facts, either not fully, or improperly explained by him; and as the obſervations have been in general made with politeneſs and candour, the Editor takes this opportunity of returning his thanks to the ſeveral authors.

Trifles of diſtant periods amuſing.

The contents of many of theſe Letters will perhaps appear trifling to common readers, but to thoſe who wiſh to enter into the domeſtic and private life of the writers, the various little traits and diſtinguiſhing features of this diſtant period will be at leaſt amuſing, if not inſtructive.

Theſe preferable to modern Letters.

Modern Original Letters are frequently written with a view to publication; and, inſtead of being the natural and unadorned dictates of the mind, are ſtudied eſſays. Theſe letters were moſt of them written before the invaluable art of Printing reached this kingdom, centuries before the idea of publiſhing familiar correſpondence occurred, and therefore, independent of the information they may afford, are eſtimable, as being the genuine effuſions of the writers, whoſe converſation we almoſt ſeem to hear as we read their letters; natural and prompt in expreſſing the ſentiments of hearts glowing with the

ſubject on which they are written, they may with propriety be conſidered as original pictures of the mind taken off by the beſt pencil,—that of *Nature* herſelf.

Private life diſplayed and contraſted with the preſent times.

In theſe Letters the private life of individuals is laid open; we become acquainted with family occurrences; we ſee the tranſitions from joy to ſorrow, from pain to pleaſure.

Here we view the attention, not only of the rich and powerful Barons, but alſo of the Gentry, to thoſe under their patronage; their diſputes about their ſeveral properties, with the violent means in uſe to ſecure them on the one hand, and to recover them on the other, meet the eye; their conteſts in the Courts of Law, and the method of conducting them, are often pointed out; and we are happy in being told of, without experiencing, the partiality of Judges, Sheriffs, and Juries.

The careful and conſiderate often ſolicit our obſervation, whether we attend to the fond huſband conſulting the eaſe, convenience, and happineſs, of his wife; or whether we follow the dutiful and affectionate wife, when purſuing the various directions of her huſband for his advantage, or for their mutual benefit and pleaſure.

The anxiety of parents will next claim our attention, when the welfare or education of their children becomes

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the ſubject of this correſpondence; their ſchemes for bringing them forward in the world, by which either their intereſt, their property, or their honour, is concerned, are made known to us; we inſenſibly take a part in their projects and deſigns; we become pleaſed at ſeeing them attended with ſucceſs, and feel concern for their diſappointments.

When we read of propoſals offered from one family to connect itſelf with another by the matrimonial alliances of their children, we pleaſingly compare in our minds the engaging perſon of the ſon, with the lively, animated, and beautiful, form of the daughter; we conſider the intended bridegroom as one diſtinguiſhed for his general knowledge of thoſe matters which become his rank or ſtation in the community, for his proweſs in the field of battle, for his gallantry in the achievements of chivalry, for his activity in the chace, or for his adroitneſs in the robuſt ſports and paſtimes of the age.

The future bride affords us pleaſure, when we contemplate the uſeful and engaging accompliſhments of her education, conſiſting in the general knowledge of domeſtic affairs, in works of the needle, where uſe, ſtrength, and beauty, vie with each other for our preference, in the management of her palfry, and in the grace and alertneſs of her

her movements in the ſprightly dance. In imagination we ſee her at the wedding of a friend, at the birth of an heir to an illuſtrious family, or at the univerſal feſtivities of Chiſtmas, attending her parents to partake of thoſe ſocial enjoyments always allotted to events of this kind. On like joyful occaſions when the ancient and ſpacious manſion of her father receives his dependants, his friends, and his near and dear relative connexions, to partake in his hoſpitable hall thoſe pleaſures which always were and always will be agreeable to youth; there, unconſcious of her attractions, we view her ſtanding forth conſpicuous, her perſon, her dreſs, her addreſs, animate the general meeting, by giving pleaſure to her youthful companions, and by affording the moſt heartfelt delight to her fond parents and relations, in thus, as it were, ſeeing themſelves revived in their innocently gay and virtuous deſcendant.

Reflections of the Editor.

Such are the thoughts which have occurred to the writer from his examination of theſe letters, and there is no doubt but the reader will participate in them; at the ſame time conſidering them as the pleaſing reveries of ſuch, as, reflecting on ancient manners with a view to their own happineſs, congratulate themſelves that the preſent moment is their own; that not only

thoſe

thoſe whom they thus ſee in the recollection of times long paſt, have been for ages at reſt in the grave, but that their children's children have likewiſe mouldered away, and returned to their native earth.

Though fond of ancient ſtory, though willing to be, in idea, tranſported to ſcenes of ancient times and ancient manners, the Editor wiſhes to infuſe into his reader a proper value for the age in which Providence has placed him, and being contented with the good he enjoys here, to live ſo, that he may look forward to greater good hereafter.

Reference to the Tatler.

The Editor from his infancy was always particularly pleaſed with that paper in the Tatler (No. CIV. vol. II.) where the merry meeting at the houſe of a friend in a country village was interrupted by the entrance of the Sexton of the pariſh church in a ſort of ſurpriſe, informing the company that, as he was digging a grave in the chancel, a little blow of his pick-ax opened a decayed coffin in which were ſeveral written papers; the curioſity of the party was raiſed, they adjourned to the ſpot, and diſcovered a parcel of letters, which had been depoſited in the grave of a Lady whoſe daughter was then preſent.

Antiquity and value of theſe Letters.

The Letters contained in theſe volumes have, as it were, lain in the grave for centuries, and no deſcendant

of

of leſs than a tenth generation could have been preſent when they were produced; they are, therefore, relics highly valuable, and the Editor hopes worthy the attention of any company, who may adjourn to peruſe them in their cloſet.

Deſcendants from the writers of them.

The reſpectable deſcendants of many of the individuals, who are parties in this correſpondence, are at this moment living, ſome ennobled by titles, and exalted by deſerved honours; others holding the firſt rank amongſt the Gentry, and, either by their public ſervices in the Senate, by their leſs public exertions as magiſtrates, or by their private kindneſſes as friends and patrons, are at this day ſetting an example worthy to be imitated by thoſe who ſhall hereafter ſucceed them; the Editor could with pleaſure here produce a liſt of perſons in the County of Norfolk only, to whom he has the honour of being known, fully confirming the above obſervations.

The preſent age often depreciated by a compariſon with former ones.

The Writers of theſe Letters and their Contemporaries had their joys and their ſorrows; they, no doubt, harraſſed by civil wars and various other calamities, looked back upon times then paſſed, and ſpoke of them as far preferable to their own; we are too apt to revert to diſtant periods, and form notions of advantages then poſſeſſed, of which we fancy ourſelves deprived, and to depreciate

depreciate the happineſs in our own power, not properly conſidering the innumerable improvements in every uſeful art and ſcience which we enjoy; let us therefore not only learn to be contented, but let us rejoice, that in this happy iſland we have for more than a century been free from plagues, peſtilence, and famine, and during that period have likewiſe been almoſt free from civil wars, the rebellions of 1715 and 1745 having been weak, and of ſhort continuance, and not productive of thoſe horrible ſlaughters which ever attended the bloody contentions between the White and Red Roſes.

Manners how diſplayed.

It is not from a partial peruſal of a few of theſe Letters that the manners of the times can be developed; for though every Letter may contain ſome trait of public manners, or of private life, it will be ſometimes too faint alone to make an impreſſion, from which any general ideas can be formed; it muſt be from a careful examination of them, and by comparing one with another, that the then prevailing manners can be properly aſcertained.

Curious papers interſperſed amongſt the letters. Articles of the Earl of Warwick.

Amongſt theſe Letters the Reader will find ſeveral papers interſperſed relative to the manners of the times, particularly the Articles propoſed by the Earl of Warwick to the Lords and Privy Council for their conſent, by which he might have a proper authority, under their ſanc-

tion, for the management and education of the minor King, Henry VI. Theſe Articles are drawn up with accuracy and judgment, and though few in number, yet they contain much excellent matter, and ſhew the caution, prudence, and addreſs, of the Nobleman appointed Governor to his Majeſty.

Sir J. Faſtolf's account. Thoſe papers likewiſe containing Sir John Faſtolf's account of the monies due to him for his ſervices and expences both at home and abroad, were thought too curious to be omitted.

Wardſhip. In ſeveral of theſe Letters the ſteps taken to acquire the wardſhip of minors are mentioned, from which the reaſons for obtaining ſuch will often appear.

Elections. In many of them Election diſputes make no inconſiderable figure, and the reader may ſometimes fancy himſelf at a conteſted election in modern times, ſurrounded by the different parties of the ſeveral Candidates.

Phyſic. Medicine is in ſome of them touched upon, though but ſlightly; and in others Phyſicians of eminence and ſkill are mentioned.

Style of Eccleſiaſtics. From the Letters written by Abbots and Priors, and particularly from thoſe by Friar Brackley, we may form an opinion of the ſtyle of writing adopted by the Eccleſiaſtics of that age; his Sermon likewiſe will throw ſome light

light upon the divinity and rhetorical powers of the famous Preachers of that period, and of the manner in which religious diſcourſes were framed for the inſtruction of the audience.

Attacks upon Helleſdon and Caiſter.

Thoſe curious Letters containing an account of the deſtruction made at Helleſdon by the Duke of Suffolk's party, and of the regular ſiege of Caiſter Caſtle by the Duke of Norfolk's retainers, acquaint us not only with the ferocious diſpoſition of the times, but exhibit an exact ſyſtem of attack and defence; hence too we learn the reaſons why our anceſtors ſo well ſecured their old manor-houſes, making many of them complete fortified caſtles.

The contemplative mind of the Hiſtorian has here a wide field for reflection; the claim ſet up to give a pretence to the ſiege of Caiſter by the Duke of Norfolk, the commanders and forces employed in the attack, the addreſs and ſpirit of the beſieged, their ſurrender, and the arts made uſe of to induce the widows of thoſe killed during the ſiege to bring their appeal, will all paſs in review before him, and form a perfect picture of men and manners.

Lancaſtrians called rebels, &c.

When we read of the Lancaſtrians as rebels and traitors, let us conſider that they were ſtill adhering to a family which in lineal deſcent had afforded three ſucceſ-

ſive Sovereigns to the throne, who had filled it for more than ſixty years. Edward's claim was certainly prior to their's and legal, but from ſo long a poſſeſſion the nation in general muſt have regarded the Henries as their lawful Sovereigns.

Various matters treated of.

There are few matters either of a public or a private nature relative to the government of the ſtate, or to the management of individuals, but, in one or other of theſe Letters, ſomething concerning them may be collected; to be more particular would be to give in this Preface the epitomiſed contents of the Letters themſelves, which the Editor ſtrives to avoid; he wiſhes to leave every reader to think and to draw concluſions in his own way; the Letters will furniſh ideas, the reader therefore will modify and combine them as they ſhall ſtrike his imagination.

Notice taken of private families.

The Editor in theſe volumes has been more deſirous of giving ſome account of private perſons than he before was of thoſe high in rank, or employed in public ſtations; as in reſpect to the former, few anecdotes can be retrieved, and therefore the moſt ſcanty materials will give ſome degree of ſatisfaction to thoſe, who wiſh to know ſomething of every one here mentioned; wherever therefore any of the perſons concerned in this correſpondence

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are anceſtors of ſurviving families, the deſcent to the preſent repreſentative is endeavoured to be aſcertained; for every one, however ſome may affect to deſpiſe birth and family, has a ſecret pride in being able to trace his lineage back to diſtant progenitors; and this becomes a laudable pride, when it prompts men to act in ſuch a manner as not to diſgrace thoſe from whom they claim this diſtinction.

History to be conſulted.

That the Reader may the better enter into the ſpirit and deſign of theſe and the preceding volumes, it is recommended to him to read over that part of the Hiſtory of England containing the reigns of thoſe Princes, who filled the throne during the period in which theſe Letters were written; as ſuch a refreſhing of his memory will throw light upon many of the Letters, and increaſe the pleaſure ariſing from their contents.

Occurrences in low life.

If in this collection ſome few letters be given relative to amours in low-life, where the language is perhaps vulgar, it is hoped, as ſuch natural occurrences form a part of the character of the age, that the reader will excuſe their inſertion.

Conveyance of letters.

The circumſtance of many of theſe Letters being concluded "in haſte" ariſes moſt probably from the uncertain mode of conveyance, which often depended upon

ſome perſon unexpectedly calling, who was going to the place, to which the writers wiſhed to ſend them.

Chronological Index. For the eaſe and convenience of the reader at the end of the Third and Fourth volumes, an Index of all the Letters contained in the preceding publication, is ſo arranged that the whole work may be read chronologically.

Plates. It is hoped the execution of the plates will ſhew the Editor's deſire to bring forward his work to advantage, as no expence has been ſpared either in the engraving or in the colouring of them.

Fewer references to the Notes accounted for. The Reader will obſerve perhaps that there are not ſo many references to the notes in theſe volumes, as there were in the former, and may therefore ſuppoſe that the Editor has not taken as much pains in elucidating theſe Letters, as he did in explaining the preceding ones; this however he aſſures him is far from being the caſe; but he has in theſe volumes endeavoured as much as poſſible to form his remarks on each letter under one head; and by that means to leſſen the number of references, as he thought they were rather blemiſhes in the page.

Reflections attributed to the Reader. The many various and important changes, which this nation has undergone ſince the time when theſe Letters were written, will moſt undoubtedly ſtrike the mind of the

the curious reader, and produce a train of thoughts on the viciſſitude of worldly events.

He will reflect, that the Sceptre of this kingdom has been, ſince that period, weilded, at one time by the hand of tyranny and deſpotiſm; at another by that of bigotry and oppreſſion; at a third by Princes formed for the good of their country: he will remember that the uſurpations of papal tyranny, alternately reſiſted and ſubmitted to, by violence ſuppreſſed, and by violence reſtored, have at length fled before the face of reaſon, and left us in quiet poſſeſſion of our preſent pure eſtabliſhment; and though our government, our laws, and our religion, gave way for a ſeaſon to the levelling ſpirit of the republican and the fanatic; yet, through all this, he will with pleaſure perceive a form of government, and a purity of religion, by imperceptible degrees, raiſing and ſtrengthening itſelf; and in the end having ſurmounted every difficulty, fixing itſelf on a ſolid and permanent baſis; he will then conſider the preſent æra; and, if he be a wiſe man, think himſelf happy in living at a period, which in the future annals of this country will ſhine with a bright and unſpotted luſtre, reflected from the throne, not only on thoſe who conduct the grand machine of government, but on thoſe likewiſe who conſtitute the greatneſs of the whole,--the people governed.

After

Original MSS. where depoſited.

After the publication of the Firſt and Second volumes of theſe Letters, the Editor, in his advertiſement to the ſecond edition, informed the Public, that the **Original Manuſcript Letters** were lodged for a time in the Library of the Antiquary Society, for general inſpection.

During their continuance in that repoſitory, it was intimated to the Editor that THE KING had an inclination to inſpect and examine them; they were immediately ſent to the Queen's Palace, with an humble requeſt from the Editor, that, if they ſhould be thought worthy a place in the Royal Collection, HIS MAJESTY would be pleaſed to accept them; to this requeſt a moſt gracious anſwer was returned, and they are now in the Royal Library.

The Editor's intentions.

The Editor intends to proceed through the remaining part of the reign of Edward IV. to give the few Letters, which he poſſeſſes, written in that of Richard III. and likewiſe thoſe that paſſed during the time that Henry VII. filled the throne, ſhould he find, by the reception theſe may meet with, that the public taſte continues favourable to his purſuits.

East Dereham.
St. George's Day,
April 23,
MDCCLXXXIX.
The Day of
General Thankſgiving
For the Happy Recovery
of our
Beloved Sovereign
GEORGE III.

J. F.

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Informs him of the ſtate of his wife and children.—A perſon taken off the ſhore at Paſton by the enemies ſhips.—Pilgrims robbed, and taken, but ſet on ſhore again.—The ſea ill kept.—Fearful for her own ſafety at Paſton.—Alſon Crane's crimſon coat, &c. - - - - 304

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John Oſbern, to John Paſton.

Auguſt, between 1457 and 1460.—35 and 39 H. VI.

Converſation between John Oſbern and the ſheriff of Norfolk, &c. concerning juries.—Money left for the ſheriff.—The ſheriff's difficulties concerning the king and lord Molyns.—Oſbern's addreſs and perſeverance.—His opinion of the ſheriff, &c.—The duke of Norfolk at Ipſwich.—Viſits an eſquire in his way to Framlingham, &c. - - - - page 308

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Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.

Before 1459.—38 H. VI.

Deſires him to buy ſome offenſive weapons for the protection of his houſe.—Deſcription of the means uſed to render houſes ſecure.—Wickets, &c. to ſhoot and fire from.—A fellowſhip.—Things to be purchaſed for M. Paſton and the children, &c. - - - - - 314

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W. Worceſter, to John Paſton.

2 September, before 1459.—38 H. VI.

Informs, that he will do as he has deſired him, &c.—Requeſts not to be called maſter.—His wages ſmall and not advanced.—To be provided for at another's expence.—Tells him he writes to make him laugh, &c. - 318

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Thomas Howys, to John Paſton, eſq.

2 September, before 1459.—38 H. VI.

A preſent of veniſon from the earl of Oxford to Sir John Faſtolf.—Various buſineſs.—The title of maſter diſpleaſing to W. Worceſter.—Iankin to be placed in the duke of Norfolk's houſehold, &c. - - 320

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Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.

January, before 1459.—38 H. VI.

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Elizabeth Poynings, to Agnes Paſton.

3 January, 1458-9.—37 H. VI.

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Hugh Fenn, to John Paſton.

1 March, 1458-9.—37 H. VI.

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Sir John Faſtolf, to John, duke of Norfolk.

2 April, about 1459.—37 H. VI.

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John de Vere, earl of Oxford, to John Paſton, eſq.

17 May, before 1460.—39 H. VI.

Thomas Denyes, the earl's ſervant, has an affection for a gentlewoman near J. Paſton.—The earl intereſts himſelf in the marriage, and deſires J. Paſton to inform the lady of his intentions. Offers to come himſelf, &c. - 360

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The king (Henry VI.), to John Paſton, eſq.

18 September, before 1460.—39 H. VI.

Deſires him to reſpite any proceedings at law which he might have againſt lord Molyns, his ſervants, &c. as his lordſhip was employed to execute certain commandments from his majeſty, and therefore could not attend the courts of law, &c. - - - - - - 362

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Thomas lord Scales, to John Paſton, eſq.

16 October, before 1460.—39 H. VI.

Lord Scales recommends it to J. Paſton to permit Wotton, &c. to have their lands, as his detaining them cauſes him to be ill ſpoken of, &c. - 364

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Richard Southwell, to John Paſton, eſq.

18 December, before 1460.—39 H. VI.

Acquaints him with tidings from London to his lord and lady concerning Daniel.—The duke of Somerſet and lord Scales, his friends.—Brayſton.—This letter to be burnt.—Chriſtmas kept at Framlingham, &c. page 366

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Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.

17 Auguſt, 1460.—38 H. VI.

Seſſions at Eaſt Dereham and Walſingham.—Hugh Fenn, a friend to J. Paſton.—She wiſhes him to come home.—A proverb.—Peſtilence at Norwich.—His mother and his couſin Clere wiſhes him well.—High ſheriff his friend.—Preſentation to Drayton diſputed.—John Eſtgate dead.—A letter miſſent, &c. - - - - - 370

LETTER XCIV.

Richard Southwell, to John Paſton.

6 October, about 1460.—39 H. VI.

Wiſhes him to intercede with maſter Radcliff for his good will.—Informs him that he has been accuſed both to the king and queen.—Purſe.—Money.—My lord of Suffolk ordered to diſmiſs him.—The queen's ſign manual.—He is always ready to oblige J. Paſton, &c. - - - . 376

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My lord of Norfolk's ſpeech concerning J. Paſton as member for Norfolk.—Howard.—Sir Thomas Todenham.—Howard enraged.—My lord of York, &c. blamed for propoſing Howard for Norfolk.—A county of worſhip, &c. 380

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1460.—39 H. VI.

Heydon member for Berkſhire.—Lady of Suffolk's application for a ſheriff.—Prayers and good wiſhes for the carl of Warwick and his friends, &c.—Writing made at Coventry parliament.—Quotations from ſcripture, &c. page 382

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Dr. Aleyn's account of matters after the parliament at Coventry, who ſhould have rule, &c.—Quotations from ſcripture.—Wiſhes the earl of Warwick, &c. to attend to his text.—J. Paſton's family well.—The Prieſt's remembrance of, and prayers for him, &c. - - - - - - - - 386

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No date.

The deſcent of the Holy Ghoſt upon the diſciples, &c.—Three things required in them for preaching to all nations.—Their helps from above.—Reference to his ſermon on Eaſter day.—Prayers to God.—Joys perfect and imperfect.—Void, half full, and full joys.—Examples and quotations, &c. - 392

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Nicholas Abbot of Langley, to John Stokes.

8 May, 1460.—38 H. VI.

Deſires to be excuſed attending at London as one of the executors of Sir John Faſtolf.—J. Paſton and Thomas Howys intended by Sir John as his acting executors.—Sir John Faſtolf's words to the abbot, &c. - - 398

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John Titleſhale, prior of Bromholm, to John Paſton, eſq.

14 October, 1460.—39 H. VI. or 1465. 5 E. IV.

Obligations acknowledged to J. Paſton.—Requeſts his aſſiſtance to obtain from the queen timbers for his dormitory from the duchy lands of Lancaſter. length, &c. - - - - page 400

LETTER CI.

John Titleſhale, Prior of Bromholm, to John Paſton, eſq.

31 January, 1460.—39 H. VI.

His viſit at Caiſter.—Good cheer there.—Converſation with ſir Thomas Howys concerning gifts to his priory.—Petitions J. Paſton for ſome gift from the goods in his hands.—The biſhop's commiſſion.—Prayer for J. Paſton, &c. - - - - - - - 404

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Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.

1 February, 1460.—39 H. VI.

His ſignet found and ſent.—Various errands.—Henry, ſon of ſir William Paſton.—Dates and cinnamon to be procured.—John Damme.—Particular concluſion, &c. - - - - - - 408

LETTER CIII.

Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton, eſq.

1 March, 1460.—39 H. VI.

Adviſes him to be careful of himſelf, as there was a deſign to apprehend him and carry him into the North.—The friends of the houſe of Lancaſter in good ſpirits.—State of the county of Norfolk.—Refers him to the bearer for more particulars, &c. - - - - - 412

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LETTER CIV.

William Naunton, to John Paſton.

Date uncertain.

W. Naunton informs J. Paſton of the proceedings at Cotton-hall.—The breaking down the bridge, &c.—Keeping poſſeſſion, and calling a court.—A great fellowſhip.—Threats, &c. - - - page 414

LETTER CV.

T. (with a device) to John Paſton.

3 December, . . . Year uncertain.

Reminds him of the ſtrictneſs of the order of the brethren of the temple of Syon.—Thomas Babington, maſter and ſovereign.—J. Paſton's time of penance, in relieving, &c. above his ability.—Requeſts him to come amongſt his brethren to be merry and jocund at Chriſtmas, &c. - - - 418

LETTER CVI.

Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.

May. Date uncertain.

Informs him of a houſe to be ſold in St. Laurence's pariſh.—Southwell enters the manor of Hale, and keeps poſſeſſion by force.—Lady Boys gone to the king to complain.—Unguentum album.—A girdle to be bought for their fair daughter, &c. - - - - - 424

LETTER CVII.

Edmund Paſton, to John Paſton.

Gregory to be diſcharged by his mother's order for an amour.—Recommends him to J. Paſton.—Hints that his going is to oblige one who rules the family.—Says he will be even with him.—Diſpute between Calle and E. Paſton, &c. - - - - - 426

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LETTER CVIII.

Richard Calle, to John Paſton.

Date uncertain.

Informs him of the money and corn raiſed for victualling the barge of Yarmouth in different hundreds and towns, &c. - - page 430

LETTER CIX.

William Price, to John Paſton.

June. Date uncertain.

Concerning the election for the county of Norfolk.—Berney, Grey, and Paſton had the greateſt voice.—He intends to return Paſton and Grey with the high ſheriff's conſent, &c. - - - - 432

LETTER CX.

Perſe, to Sir Robert Rokeſby.

. . . . . H. VI. or E. IV.

Requeſts his application to Richard Kowven, for money due to him.—Complains of his treatment in priſon.—Lord Roos's priſoner.—Thanks, &c. to ſir Robert for his kindneſs, &c. - - - ibid.

ACCOUNT of the PLATES.

FRONTISPIECE TO VOL. III.

Henry VI. and John duke of Norfolk.

THE two portraits, here repreſented on a checquered marble pavement, kneeling on cuſhions in the attitude of prayer, being in armour with ſurcoats of their arms, are thoſe of king Henry VI. and John Mowbray, the third duke of Norfolk of that houſe, taken from a painted window in the church of St. Paul, at Bedford.

The king appears in this drawing much younger than he was when that which makes the frontiſpiece to the firſt volume of this work was taken; he is here likewiſe adorned with his royal crown, having on his ſurcoat the quartered arms of France and England, his ſword girded about him, and in every reſpect he appears like a ſovereign prince.

The Editor cannot help fancying but that he can in this repreſentation trace the ſame countenance which characteriſes this king both in Mr. Walpole's print of his marriage, and in the frontiſpiece before mentioned.

This ſeems to repreſent him at a middle period; at the time of his marriage he was nearly twenty-three years old; at the time of life in which he is here delineated, we may gueſs him to be upwards of thirty years of age; and in the portrait before given, he was between forty and fifty.

The arched part of his crown is filled by a cap of crimſon velvet, and ſuch part of his armour as appears is enriched with gold; the cuſhion on which he kneels is of purple velvet, bordered with gold lace, having taſſels of the ſame.

John Mowbray duke of Norfolk, earl Marſhal, and earl of Nottingham, lord Segrave, Gower, &c. and knight of the Garter.

This nobleman was ſent into Picardy, in 1438, as ambaſſador, to make peace between the kings of England and France.

In 1446 he went on pilgrimage to Rome, and in 1456 he had permiſſion to viſit many other holy places, and to proceed to the Blood of our Saviour at Windiſmark in Germany, as alſo to go a ſecond time to Rome and Jeruſalem, having vowed this pilgrimage for the recovery of the king's health.

He juſt lived to ſee his royal maſter dethroned, and to be appointed, by his ſucceſſor Edward IV. juſtice itinerant of all the foreſts ſouth of Trent, and then dying, was buried in the abbey of Thetford, in Norfolk, in 1461.

It may be ſuppoſed that the pilgrimage undertaken by him, in hopes of obtaining health to his ſovereign, entitled him to ſuch a mark of diſtinction as to be here delineated with him.

He has a ducal coronet on his head, his armour appears ſimilar to that of the king, and the arms on his taberd or ſurcoat are thoſe of England, with a label of three points argent for Brotherton, and Gules a lyon rampant argent, armed, and langued azure, for Mowbray. See his Letters, &c. N° iii. Vol. I. N°s xxvi. and lxiii. Vol. III. and for his curious Monogram, or Autograph, refer to Pl. I. N° 3.

The

Framlingham caſtle.

The engraving on the title page of this volume exhibits a view of the preſent magnificent ruins of the caſtle of Framlingham in Suffolk, drawn by the accurate and elegant pencil of my worthy friend Francis Groſe, Eſq. a place frequently mentioned in theſe letters as being then the hoſpitable manſion of the Mowbrays, dukes of Norfolk; by the noble inhabitant of which ſome of the letters here preſented to the reader were written, and to himſelf and divers of his houſhold others were addreſſed.

This noble remain of antiquity is ſuppoſed to have been erected in the time of the Saxons; it was a large, ſtrong, and maſſy building, containing within its walls, which were forty-four feet high and eight feet thick, flanked by thirteen ſquare towers riſing conſiderably above them, two of which were watch-towers, an area of land of one acre one rood and eleven perches. Many of the curiouſly wrought chimnies are ſtill ſtanding on the towers.

Soon after the Conqueſt, the caſtle was granted to the Bigods earls of Norfolk; it afterwards became the property of Thomas of Brotherton, earl of Norfolk, and from his female deſcendants was inherited by the Mowbrays, dukes of Norfolk; it then deſcended to the Howards, dukes of the ſame county, and from this family it was granted to the de Veres earls of Oxford, but reverted again to the Howards; by one of them it was ſold to Sir Robert Hitcham, knight, attorney general to Charles I. who ſettled it for various charitable uſes on the maſter and fellows of Pembroke-hall in Cambridge, who are the preſent owners.

To this ſtrong fortreſs queen Mary retired in 1553, and hence ſet out to take poſſeſſion of that crown, which her amiable but unfortunate

fortunate competitor, lady Jane Grey, had aſpired to, at the inſtigation of her ambitious relations.

John Mowbray, duke of Norfolk.

John Mowbray duke of Norfolk, earl Marſhal, and earl of Nottingham, to which latter titles he was reſtored by king Henry V. was a younger ſon of John lord Mowbray, by Elizabeth daughter and coheir of John lord Segrave, by Margaret daughter and coheir of Thomas Plantagenet of Brotherton, earl of Norfolk, and marſhal of England, and ſucceeded his brother Thomas, who was beheaded, in 1406.

In 1414 he was preſent at the ſiege of Harfleur with king Henry V. but being there taken ill, he was obliged to return to England before the famous battle of Agincourt, in 1415. In 1416, he was at the ſiege of Caen in Normandy, and continued in thoſe parts till the death of Henry, by whom he had been made a knight of the Garter. He was ſoon retained to ſerve Henry VI. and being one of thoſe valiant ſoldiers who had acquired renown in the armies of both his ſovereigns in their French wars, where he had ever behaved with the greateſt courage and fidelity, he was, in 1424, reſtored to the title and dignity of duke of Norfolk, having been hitherto ſtyled only earl Marſhal and earl of Nottingham.

He died about 1434, at his manor of Epleworth, in the iſle of Axholm, and was buried in the Chapter-houſe of the Carthuſians there.

He married Katharine (ſee Letter iii. of this volume) daughter of Ralph lord Neville, firſt earl of Weſtmoreland, by Joan, daughter of John of Gaunt duke of Lancaſter, and by her had John, who ſucceeded him as duke of Norfolk, and whoſe portrait



Johannes Dux de Norfolk.

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Johannes Dux de Norfolk.

Cook Sc.



trait is repreſented on the ſame place with that of king Henry VI. The arms here emblazoned are thoſe of England with a label of three points for Brotherton, quartering thoſe of Warren, the ancient earls of Surrey, checky, or and azure.

This portrait is taken from a painting on glaſs in St. Mary's hall, at Coventry.

The duke's head-dreſs is of crimſon velvet fringed with gold, that part of the under-garment which appears below his neck is blue, the ſleeve crimſon, and both embroidered with gold; his gown of purple velvet is lined with ermine, and bordered with gold lace.

The following portraits, in the attitude of prayer, kneeling on cuſhions, on a marble pavement, are copied from a north painted window in the Nave of Litchfield Cathedral.

Humphrey earl of Stafford.

The firſt repreſents Humphrey Stafford earl of Stafford, ſon of Edmund earl of Stafford, by the lady Anne, only daughter of Thomas of Woodſtock, duke of Glouceſter, youngeſt ſon of king Edward III. He was made a knight of the Garter early in the reign of Henry VI. and created duke of Buckingham by the ſame prince in 1444. He had ſeveral commands in France, and was ſent ambaſſador to that court to treat of peace. In 1446, he obtained a grant for precedence above all dukes, thoſe of the blood-royal excepted; and ever adhering firmly to the intereſt of his ſovereign, was ſlain at the battle of Northampton, in July 1460, where he bore a joint-command with the duke of Somerſet; he is there buried.

This nobleman is habited in rich armour, over which, on a ſurcoat, are his arms, namely, or a cheveron gules.

His



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His

His ſignature as earl of Stafford is ſubſcribed to the earl of Warwick's articles N° 1. of this volume; and his Autograph as duke of Buckingham, appears to Letter v. Vol. I.

Anne, counteſs of Stafford.

The ſecond figure repreſents Anne, counteſs of Stafford, his wife, daughter of Ralph Neville earl of Weſtmoreland; her undergarment is of blue velvet; her mantle of crimſon, adorned with a white ſaltier, the arms of her family, is lined with cloth of gold ornamented with the red cheveron of her huſband's arms. Being left a widow in 1460, ſhe married Walter Blount lord Montjoy, and dying in 1480 was buried at Pleſſey, in Eſſex.

Humphrey Stafford their ſon.

The portrait in the centre is deſigned for Humphrey their eldeſt ſon, afterwards earl of Stafford, who died of the wounds he received at the battle of St. Alban's in 1455. He is repreſented in the ſame attitude and dreſs as his father, but without a ſword, moſt probably having never been knighted. His wife was Margaret, ſiſter and coheir of Edmund Beaufort duke of Somerſet.

The **Orate pro bono ſtatu illuſtriſſimi dni Humfridi Comitis Staffordie, et Anne conſortis ſue**, ſhews theſe perſonages to have been benefactors to the church of Litchfield, and that this memorial of them was erected not only in their life-time, but before he was advanced to the dukedom of Buckingham.

The arms in the heater ſhield are thoſe of Stafford.

The cuſhion on which the earl kneels is of blue velvet, her's is of green, and the ſon's of purple, each bordered and taſſelled with gold.

For the drawings of theſe three plates I am obliged to my eſteemedand ingenious friend John Charles Brooke, Eſq. Somerſet herald.



Pro bono statu illustrissimi dñi Humfridi Comitis
[illegible], et dñe Anne consortis sue.

His figure as earl of Stafford is fubfcribed to the earl of Warwick's article N° 1. of this volume; and his Autograph as duke of Buckingham, appears to Letter v. Vol. I.

Anne, countefs of Stafford.

The fecond figure repreſents Anne, counteſs of Stafford, his wife, daughter of Ralph Neville earl of Weſtmoreland; her under-garment is of blue velvet; her mantle of crimſon, adorned with a white lattice, the arms of her family, is lined with cloth of gold compounded with the red cheveron of her huſband's arms. Being left a widow in 1460, ſhe married Walter Blount lord Montjoy, and dying in 1480 was buried at Pleſſey, in Eſſex.

Humphrey, ſtyled earl of Stafford.

The portrait in the centre is deſigned for Humphrey their eldeſt ſon, afterwards earl of Stafford, who died of the wounds he received at the battle of St. Alban's in 1455. He is repreſented in the ſame attitude and dreſs as his father, but without a ſword, moſt probably having never been knighted. His wife was Margaret [illegible] Beaufort duke of Somerſet.

The eſcutcheon with the [illegible] Comitis Staffordiæ et Dñus [illegible] ſhews theſe perſonages to have been benefactors to the church of Litchfield, and that this monument of them was erected not only in their life-time, but before he was advanced to the dukedom of Buckingham.

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ɾafe pro bono ſtatu illuſtriſſimi dñi Humfridi Comitis
affordie, et dñe Anne conſortis ſue.



Plate XVII. contains a fac-ſimile repreſentation of the concluſion of the earl of Warwick's articles, and of the ſignatures of the ſubſcribing peers and great officers of ſtate. Fac-ſimiles and Autographs.

Plates XVIII. XIX. and XX. contain fac-ſimile repreſentations of the names, titles, &c. of the writers of the letters contained in this volume; ſeveral of them have likewiſe ſuperadded the concluding ſentence of their reſpective letters, as additional ſpecimens of their hand-writing.

Plates XXI. and XXII. repreſent exact delineations of the various paper marks worked into the paper on which the Original Letters are written. Paper-marks.

Plate XXIII. exhibits the different ſeals ſtill remaining on the letters in this volume, with repreſentations of the faſtening ſlips of paper and ſtring, or thread, now adhering to the originals. Nos 10 and 11. on this plate, are intended to ſhew both the directed and ſealed ſide of one of the letters, with the manner of folding, ſecuring, and directing letters at the period here mentioned. Seals, &c.

CORRECTIONS and ADDITIONS.

Letter.	Page.	Line.	
			V O L. III.
I	5	4	*after* groweth ſo *add a comma* ,—*after* power *add a comma* ,
		20	for [*Reponſio*] read [*Reſponſio*]
II	17	9	*below* Skelton *add* 1434. 13 H. VI.
V	23	13	*for* then, till, *read* than till
VIII	33	13	*for* Palmer too, *read* Palmer to,
XII	45	4	*for* Octoer *read* October
XV	51	9	*for* conſort *read* comfort
		Note, 2	*for* No. 94 *read* 14
XVI	55	Note, 2	*for* was not *read* was now
	59	10	*after* willers *dele the comma* , and *add a ſemicolon* ;
		15	*for* galant *read* gallant
	61	7	*for* alma *read* alms
		17	*for* to do *read* to done
XVII	62	4	*for* Comunas *read* Comunes
	64	2	*for* onnu'ſal *read* univ'ſall
	72	28	*for* p'ſigin *read* p'ſigni
	73	7	*for* private *read* privity
		12	*for* arms *read* armies
	75	5	*after* ordinance *add a comma* ,
		7	*for* as *read* is
	78	1	*for* leſſy *read* leſſe
XXVII	119	9	*for* for the *read* how the
XXVIII	127	3	*for* know *read* knew
XXXI	135	3	*dele* I
XXXVII	158	26	*for* Limno^{r} *read* Lumno^{r}
XLV	191	Note, l. laſt	*for* octagonal *read* octangular
XLVIII	200	Note, 3	*for* ãã *read* ãẽ
L	210	5	*for* maak *read* mark
LII	217	Note, 4	*for* dẽi dẽi *read* dẽi dñi
LVI	230	Note, 2	*for* vid. *read* vidz.
LXVI	267	13	*for* 3066 5 6 *read* 3066 0 0
LXVII	270	Note, 3	*for* following *read* foregoing
		Note, 8	*dele* entirely
		Note, 9	*after* tranſactions *add* both in England and
		Note, 10	*after* ſuſtained *dele* both in England and—*and then add* in
LXXI	291	1	*for* ia *read* in
LXXII	293	4 Note, 2	*for* Bokenhem *read* Bokenham
LXXXVI	350	12	*for* abſcidãt *read* abſcĩdãt'
XCIV	379	1	*for* caſe *read* cauſe
XCVI	384	Laſt line	*for* co'ſius *read* c'oſius
XCVII	386	5	*for* aſſiſtant' *read* aſſiſtant
CII	408	Note, 10	*for* King of the Province of Arms *read* King of Arms of the Province
		Note, 15	*for* Sheriff *read* Sheriffs
	411	10	*after* furtheſt *dele the comma , and place a ſemicolon ;*
CIV	414	8	*for* y^{e} *read* y^{r}
	419	5	*for* 14 *read* 14..
CVII	428	Note, 4	*for* Gloir *read* Glois
	429	16	for [*breech*] read [*breach*]
			LIST of PLATES and NUMBERS.
			Plate XVII. *After the following words a period ſhould be placed and not a comma* Glouceſtre. Cromwell. Ebor. Suffolk. Stafford.
			CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX. No. XXIV.
			for year of reign 38 *read* 36

DIRECTIONS to the BINDER.

V O L. III.

Henry VI. and the Duke of Norfolk, Frontiſpiece to Vol. III. to be placed before the Title Pages.
John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, to front Page xxxii.
Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, &c. to front Page xxxiv.
Plates XVII.—XXIII. to be placed following each other at the End of the Volume.

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

HENRY VI.

1432 - - - - - - 1460.
11 - - - - - - 39 H. VI.

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

LETTER I.

Articles de Monsr. de r Warrewyk touch' le bon regime du Roy, &c.

FOR ye goode Reule demeſnyng and ſeuretee of ye Kynges p'ſone and draught of him to vertue and connyng and eſchuying of eny ying yat mighte yeve empeſchem't or let yr to or

On the back of the parchment on which theſe Articles are tranſcribed, is written "The requeſts of the erle of Warwick," and then the following memorandum, "xxixo die Novemb. Ao undecimo apud Weſtm lecti fuerūt p'ntes Articuli corā Dñis infra ſubſcribentibz et ad eoſdm R'nſiones ibidm dabantr continuè qd infra patet, p'ntibus Dñis infraſcriptis."

The reader is here preſented with a ſet of articles drawn up by the earl of Warwick, preceptor to king Henry VI. and preſented by him to the officers of ſtate and privy council for their approbation and concurrence, thoſe, to which he already had their conſent, now becoming inſufficient for his management of his royal pupil.

They are penned in a maſterly manner, and ſhew not only the earl's knowledge of mankind, but likewiſe his thorough acquaintance with the important truſt committed to his care.

Henry VI. was now in the 11th year of his reign, and had nearly completed the eleventh of his age; a period dangerous to thoſe whoſe duty it was not only to improve his mind, but alſo to correct and reſtrain his paſſions, when, if he were a forward boy, his mind would open, and he would begin to feel his own importance, even without the inſinuations of flatterers, which in his ſituation were likely to be whiſpered, and which by the tenour of the requiſitions we find had been actually conveyed to his ear.

The articles are judicious, and could not have been more conciſely nor more perſpicuouſly worded, nor have contained more important matter for the well governing of a youth, if they had been the production of modern time, neither could the good ſenſe and propriety of the great officers and council, have been at this day more advantageouſly ſhewn

HENRY VI.

LETTER I.

Articles declaring how the Earl of [1] Warwick took the charge of King Henry VI.

FOR the good rule, demeaning, and ſurety of the King's Perſon and draught of him to virtue and cunning [*knowledge*,] and eſchewing of any thing that might give impeachment or let

ſhewn in the guarded and ſatisfactory manner whereby they aſſented to the terms propoſed; the preſent idea of chaſtiſement would undoubtedly have been different, but it was then conſonant to the rough manners of the age.

We cannot help having an high opinion of the earl of Warwick's abilities for the poſt he filled, and of the propriety of conduct in the duke of Glouceſter and the ſubſcribing lords, who, by delegating ſuch powers to his governor, ſeem to have had the future welfare of their ſovereign in view.

[1] Richard Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, was born in 1380, and, whether we conſider him as a ſoldier or ſtateſman, was one of the moſt conſiderable perſonages of his time. In 1408 he viſited the Holy Sepulchre at Jeruſalem, and on his journey thither acquitted himſelf with the greateſt valour at tournaments, and other acts of valour in the courts of ſeveral princes.

King Henry V. for his great merit appointed him guardian and preceptor to his infant ſon, which appointment upon his death was confirmed by parliament. In conſequence of this truſt he was recalled from France, where he had a principal command under the duke of Bedford, and upon that duke's deceaſe, in 1435, he returned thither again as regent.

He died at the caſtle of Roan in Normandy, on the 30th of April 1439, and his body, by his own deſire being brought into England, was depoſited for a time in the collegiate church of Warwick, till the ſumptuous chapel, which he had directed to be built, ſhould be ready for its reception.

This chapel, together with the magnificent tomb of its founder, coſt 2481l. 4s. 7½d.

or cauſe eny charge defaulte or blame to be leyd upon ye Erle of Warrewyk at eny tyme withouten his deſert, he conſidering yat p'ill and beſineſſe of his charge aboute ye kinges perſone groweth ſo yat that auctoritee and power yeven to him before ſuffiſeth him nought without more y^r^to deſireth y^r^fore yees yinges yat folowen.

Furſt yat conſidering yat ye charge of ye Reule demeſnyng and gove^r^nance and alſo of nourture of ye Kinges perſone reſteth upon ye ſaid Erle whiles it ſhal like ye King and ye p'ill daunger and blame if eny lak or defaulte were in eny of yees ye whiche lak or defaulte mighte be cauſed by ungodely or unvertuous men if eny ſuche were aboute his perſone he deſireth y^r^fore for the goode of ye King and for his owne ſeuretee to have power and auctoritee to nome ordeigne and affigne and for cauſe yat ſhal be yought to him reſonable to remoeve yoo yat ſhal be aboute ye Kinges p'ſone of what eſtate or condicōn yat yei be not entending to cōp^r^hende in yis deſir ye Stuard Chamberlein Treſoror Controwlo^r^ ne Sergeants of offices ſave ſuch as ſerve aboute ye Kinges p^r^ſone and for his mouth.

Rño. As toward ye namyng ordeignance and affignacon beforeſaid it is agreed ſo yat he take in noon of ye iiij Knightes ne Squyers for the body without yadvis of my Lord of [a] Bedford him

[a] John Plantagenet, duke of Bedford, brother to the late king, and regent of France, was one of the moſt valiant and accompliſhed princes of his age. He knighted his nephew, king Henry VI. in 1425, and dying at Paris in 1435, was buried under a ſumptuous

thereto, or cauſe any charge, default, or blame, to be laid upon the Earl of Warwick at any time without his deſert, he, conſidering that peril and buſineſs of his charge about the King's perſon groweth ſo that that authority and power given to him before, ſufficeth him nought without more thereto, deſireth therefore theſe things that follow.

1. Firſt, that conſidering that the charge of the rule, demeaning, and governance, and alſo of nurture of the King's Perſon, reſteth upon the ſaid Earl, whilſt it ſhall like the King, and the peril, danger, and blame, if any lack or default were in any of theſe, the which lack or default might be cauſed by ungodly or unvirtuous men, if any ſuch were about his perſon; he deſireth therefore for the good of the King and for his own ſurety to have power and authority to name, ordain, and aſſign, and, for cauſe that ſhall be thought to him reaſonable, to remove thoſe that ſhall be about the King's perſon of what eſtate or condition that they be, not intending to comprehend in this deſire the Steward, Chamberlain, Treaſurer, Controller, nor Serjeants of offices, ſave ſuch as ſerve about the King's perſon and for his mouth.

Rño. [*Reponſio.*] Anſwer, as toward the naming, ordinance, and aſſignation before ſaid, it is agreed, ſo that he take in none of the four Knights nor Eſquires for the body, without the advice of my Lord of [a] Bedford, him being in England, and him

ſumptuous monument in our lady's church at Roan, which when Lewis XI. was counſelled to deface, he nobly replied, "*Touch it not; let the body of that great man reſt in peace, "which, when alive, would have diſquieted the proudeſt of us all.*"

being

or cauſe eny charge defaulte or blame to be leyd upon ye Erle of Warrewyk at eny tyme withouten his deſert, he conſidering yat p'ill and beſineſſe of his charge aboute ye kinges perſone groweth ſo yat that auctoritee and power yeven to him before ſuffiſeth him nought without more y^r to deſireth y^rfore yees yinges yat folowen.

Furſt yat conſidering yat ye charge of ye Reule demeſnyng and gove^rnance and alſo of nourture of ye Kinges perſone reſteth upon ye ſaid Erle whiles it ſhal like ye King and ye p'ill daunger and blame if eny lak or defaulte were in eny of yees ye whiche lak or defaulte mighte be cauſed by ungodely or unvertuous men if eny ſuche were aboute his perſone he deſireth y^rfore for the goode of ye King and for his owne ſeuretee to have power and auctoritee to nome ordeigne and aſſigne and for cauſe yat ſhal be yought to him reſonable to remoeve yoo yat ſhal be aboute ye Kinges p'ſone of what eſtate or condicōn yat yei be not entending to cōp^rhende in yis deſir ye Stuard Chamberlein Treſoror Controwlo^r ne Sergeants of offices ſave ſuch as ſerve aboute ye Kinges p^rſone and for his mouth.

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[a] John Plantagenet, duke of Bedford, brother to the late king, and regent of France, was one of the moſt valiant and accompliſhed princes of his age. He knighted his nephew, king Henry VI. in 1425, and dying at Paris in 1435, was buried under a ſumptuous

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1. Firſt, that conſidering that the charge of the rule, demeaning, and governance, and alſo of nurture of the King's Perſon, reſteth upon the ſaid Earl, whilſt it ſhall like the King, and the peril, danger, and blame, if any lack or default were in any of theſe, the which lack or default might be cauſed by ungodly or unvirtuous men, if any ſuch were about his perſon; he deſireth therefore for the good of the King and for his own ſurety to have power and authority to name, ordain, and aſſign, and, for cauſe that ſhall be thought to him reaſonable, to remove thoſe that ſhall be about the King's perſon of what eſtate or condition that they be, not intending to comprehend in this deſire the Steward, Chamberlain, Treaſurer, Controller, nor Serjeants of offices, ſave ſuch as ſerve about the King's perſon and for his mouth.

Rño. [*Reponſio.*] Anſwer, as toward the naming, ordinance, and aſſignation before ſaid, it is agreed, ſo that he take in none of the four Knights nor Eſquires for the body, without the advice of my Lord of [a] Bedford, him being in England, and him

ſumptuous monument in our lady's church at Roan, which when Lewis XI. was counſelled to deface, he nobly replied, "*Touch it not; let the body of that great man reſt in peace, "which, when alive, would have diſquieted the proudeſt of us all.*"

being

him being in Englond and him being out of my Lord of [3] Glouceſtre and of the Remenent of ye Kinges counſail.

Itm, ye ſaid Erle deſireth yat where he ſhal have eny p'ſone in his diſcrecion ſuſpect of myſgov'nance and not behoveful nor expedient to be aboute ye King except yeſtates of ye hous yat he may putte hem from exerciſe and occupacon of ye Kinges ſervice till yat he ſhal mowe have ſpeche with my Lordes of Bedford or of Glouceſtre and with ye oy' Lordes of the Kinges counſail to yat ende yat ye defaulte of eny ſuche p'ſone knowen vnto him ſhal mowe ordeigne y'upon as yeim ſhel yenke be expedient and behovefull.

Rñ̄o. it is agreed as it is deſired.

Itm, ye ſaid Erle deſireth yat for ſikeneſſe and oyer cauſes neceſſaries and reſonables he may by warnyng to my Lordes of Bedford or Glouceſtre and ye Kinges Counſail be and ſtande freely deſcharged of ye ſaide occupacion and beſineſſe aboute ye Kinges p'ſone under ye favour and goode grace of ye King my Lordes of Bedford and Glouceſtre and oyer Lordes of ye Kinges Counſail.

Rñ̄o. it is agreed as it is deſired.

Itm yat conſidering howe bleſſed be God ye King is growen in yeers in ſtature of his p'ſone and alſo in conceit and knowleche of his hiegh and Royalle auctoritee and eſtat ye whiche naturelly cauſen him, and from day to day as he groweth ſhul cauſen him more

[3] Humphrey Plantagenet, duke of Glouceſter, protector of the realm of England, and youngeſt brother to Henry V. was a ſcholar and a ſtateſman. At a parliament holden at St. Edmund's Bury, in 1446-7 he was arreſted for high treaſon, and ſhortly after was found murdered in his bed in the abbey there, by the contrivance and procurement as it was

being out, of my Lord of [1] Glouceſter, and of the Remanent of the King's Council.

2. Item, the ſaid Earl deſireth that where he ſhall have any perſon in his diſcretion ſuſpect [*ſuſpected*] of miſgovernance, and not behoveful nor expedient to be about the King, except the eſtates of the houſe, that he may put them from exerciſe and occupation of the King's ſervice, till that he ſhall mowe have ſpeech with my Lord of Bedford, of Glouceſter, and with the other Lords of the King's council, to that end that the default of any ſuch perſon known unto him ſhall mowe ordain thereupon as them [*they*] ſhall think expedient and behoveful.

Anſwer, it is agreed as it is deſired.

3. Item, the ſaid Earl deſireth that, for ſickneſs and other cauſes neceſſary and reaſonable, he may by warning to my Lords of Bedford, or Glouceſter, and the King's council, be and ſtand freely diſcharged of the ſaid occupation and buſineſs about the King's perſon, under the favour and good grace of the King, my Lords of Bedford and Glouceſter, and other Lords of the King's Council.

Anſwer, it is agreed as it is deſired.

4. Item, that conſidering how, bleſſed be God! the King is grown in years, in ſtature of his perſon, and alſo in conceit and knowledge of his high and Royal authority and eſtate, the which naturally cauſe him, and from day to day as he groweth, ſhall

[1] was ſuppoſed of queen Margaret, and the then marquis of Suffolk, in conjunction with the cardinal of Wincheſter. He was buried at St. Alban's, and in 1703 his body was diſcovered preſerved in a kind of pickle.

more and more to gructhe with chaſtiſing and to lothe it ſo yat it may reſonably be doubted leſte he wol conceive ayeins ye ſaid Erle or eny oyr yat wol take upon him to chaſtiſe him for his defaultes diſpleſir or indignacion yrfore, ye whiche withoute due aſſiſtence is not eaſy to be born. It like yrfore to my Lord of Glouceſtre and to alle the Lordes of ye Kinges counſail to promitte to ye ſaid Erle and aſſure him, yat yei ſhul fermely and trewely aſſiſten him in ye exerciſe of ye charge and occupacion yat he hath aboute ye Kinges perſone, namely in chaſtiſing of him for his defaultes and ſupport the ſaid Erle yrinne and if ye king at eny time wol conceyve for yat cauſe indignacion ayeins ye ſaid Erle, my ſaid Lord of Glouceſtre and Lordes ſhul do all her trewe diligence and power to remoeve ye King yrfro.

Rño. it is agreed as it is deſired.

Itm, ye ſaid Erle deſireth yat for aſmuche as it ſhal be neceſſarie to remoeve the Kinges p'ſone at diverſe tymes into ſundry places as ye caſes mowe require yat he may have power and auctoritee to remoeve ye King by his diſcrecion into what place him yenketh neceſſarie for ye helthe of his body and ſeuretee of his perſone.

Rño. it is agreed as it is deſired.

Itm, ſith ye ſaid Erle hath take upon him ye govrnance of ye Kinges perſone he deſireth yat alle yeſtates, officers and ſrvantz of ye Kinges hous, of what eſtate and condicon yei be have ſpāl commandem't and charge yeven by my Lordes of Bedford and Glouceſtre and by ye Lordes of ye Kinges counſail, yat in alle manre yinges ſeyn and aviſed by ye ſaid Erles deſcrecion, yat is

for

cauſe him more and more to grudge with chaſtiſing, and to loath it, ſo that it may reaſonably be doubted leſt he will conceive againſt the ſaid Earl, or any other that will take upon him to chaſtiſe him for his defaults, diſpleaſure or indignation therefore, the which without due aſſiſtance is not eaſy to be born. It like therefore to my Lord of Glouceſter and to all the Lords of the King's council to promitte [*promiſe*] to the ſaid Earl and aſſure him, that they ſhall firmly and truly aſſiſt him in the exerciſe of the charge and occupation that he hath about the King's perſon, namely in chaſtiſing of him for his defaults, and ſupport the ſaid Earl therein; and if the King at any time will conceive for that cauſe indignation againſt the ſaid Earl, my ſaid Lord of Glouceſter and Lords ſhall do all their true diligence and power to remove the King therefrom.

Anſwer, it is agreed as it is deſired.

5. Item, the ſaid Earl deſireth, that foraſmuch as it ſhall be neceſſary to remove the King's Perſon at divers times into ſundry places as the caſes may require, that he may have power and authority to remove the King by his diſcretion into what place him [*he*] thinketh neceſſary for the health of his body and ſurety of his perſon.

Anſwer, it is agreed as it is deſired.

6. Item, ſith [*ſince*] the ſaid Earl hath take upon him the governance of the King's perſon, he deſireth that all the eſtates, officers and ſervants of the King's houſe, of what eſtate and condition they be, have ſpecial commandment and charge given by my Lords of Bedford, and Glouceſter, and by the Lords of the King's council, that in all manner [*of*] things ſeen and adviſed by the ſaid Earl's diſcretion, that is for the King's

for ye Kinges eſtate worſhip helthe and profit by his commendem't and ordeignance yei be attendant and obeiſſant in accompliſsſhing y'of.

Rño. it is agreed as it is deſired.

Itm, for as muche as ye ſaid Erle hath knowleche yat in ſpeche yat hath be had unto ye King at p't and in prive not hering ye ſaid Erle nor eny of ye Knightes ſet aboute his perſone nor aſſigned by ye ſaid Erle he hath be ſtured by ſume from his lernyng and ſpoken to of div'ſe mat'es not behovefull, ye ſeid Erle doubting ye harme yat mighte falle to ye King and ye Inconvenientz yat mighte enſue of ſuch ſpeche at p't if it were ſuffred, deſireth yat in al ſpeche to be had with ye King, he or oon of ye iiij Knightes or ſum p'ſone to be aſſigned by ye ſaid Erle be preſent and prive to it.

Rño. yis article is agreed excepting ſuche p'ſones as for nieghneſſe of blood and for yeir eſtate owe of reſon to be ſuffred to ſpeke with ye King.

Itm, to yentent yat it may be knowen to ye King yat it procedeth of yaſſent advis and agreem't of my Lord of Glouceſtre and alle my Lordes of ye Kinges counſail yat ye King be chaſtiſed for his defaultes or treſpaſſes and yat for awe y'of he forbere ye more to do mys and entende ye more beſily to vertu and to lernyng, ye ſaid Erle deſireth yat my Lord of Glouceſtre and my ſaid oy^r^ Lordes of ye counſail or greet p't of hem, yat is to ſay ye Chanceller and Treſorer and of ev^r^ych eſtate in ye counſail ſpūell and temporell ſume come to ye Kinges p'ſence and y'e to make to be declared to him yeire agreement in yat behalve.

Rno. When ye King cometh next to London all his counſail ſhal come to his p'ſence and y'e yis ſhal be declared to him.

eſtate, worſhip, health, and profit, by his commandment and ordainance, they be attendant and obeiſſant in accompliſhing thereof.

Anſwer, it is agreed as it is deſired.

7. Item, foraſmuch as the ſaid Earl hath knowledge that in ſpeech that hath been had unto the King at part [*apart*] and in private, not hearing the ſaid Earl, nor any of the Knights ſet about his perſon, nor aſſigned by the ſaid Earl, he hath been ſtirred by ſome from his learning, and ſpoken to of diverſe matters not behoveful; the ſaid Earl doubting the harm that might fall to the King, and the inconvenience that might enſue of ſuch ſpeech at part, if it were ſuffered, deſireth that in all ſpeech to be had with the King, he or one of the four Knights, or ſome perſon to be aſſigned by the ſaid Earl, be preſent and privy to it.

Anſwer. This article is agreed, excepting ſuch Perſons, as for nighneſs of blood, and for their eſtate, ought of reaſon to be ſuffered to ſpeak with the King.

8. Item, to the intent that it may be known to the King that it proceedeth of the aſſent, advice, and agreement, of my Lord of Glouceſter, and all my Lords of the King's council, that the King be chaſtiſed for his defaults or treſpaſſes, and that for awe thereof he forbear the more to do amiſs, and intend the more buſily to virtue and to learning; the ſaid Earl deſireth that my Lord of Glouceſter, and my ſaid other Lords of the council or great part of them, that is to ſay, the Chancellor, and Treaſurer, and of everych [*every*] eſtate in the council ſpiritual and temporal ſome come to the King's preſence, and there to make to be declared to him their agreement in that behalf.

Anſwer. When the King cometh next to London, all his council ſhall come to his preſence, and there this ſhall be declared to him.

Itm, ye ſaid Erle yat alle his dayes hath aboven alle oyr eryely yinges deſired and evre ſhal to kepe his trouthe and worſhip unblemyſshed and unhurt and may not for all yat lette malicious and untrewe men to make informacions of his p'ſone, ſuche as yei may not ne dar not ſtande by, ne be not trewe, beſecheth yrfore my Lord of Glouceſtre and alle my ſaid Lordes of the counſail yat if yei or eny of hem have be enformed of eny ying yat may be or fovne to his charge or defaulte and namely in his occupacion and reule aboute ye Kinges p'ſone yat ye ſaid Erle may have knowleche yrof to yentent yat he may anſwer yrto, and not dwell in hevy or ſyniſtre conceit or opinion withoute his deſert and without anſwere.

Rño. it is agreed.

[7] Cromwell.

[3] H. Glouceſtre.

[9] J. Ebor. [10] P. Elien.

[11] W. Lincoln. [8] J. Bathen Canc. [12] J. Roffen.

[5] Suffolk. [4] H. Stafford.

[6] J. Huntyngton.

13 ½ by 19.

[4] Humphrey Stafford, earl of Stafford, and in 1444 duke of Buckingham, was killed at the battle of Northampton, in 1460, where he jointly commanded the royal army with the duke of Somerſet. He was by his mother great grandſon to Edward III.

[5] William de la Pole, earl of Suffolk, was in 1443 made marquis, and in 1448 created duke of Suffolk. He was prime miniſter to Henry VI. aud the favourite of his queen. Being baniſhed to appeaſe the national diſcontent in 1450, he was taken on the ſea, and beheaded without trial. Autograph. Pl. 1. N° 6.

[6] John Holland reſtored as earl of Huntington, in 1416, was afterwards created duke of Exeter. He was admiral of England, and conſtable of the Tower of London. He died in 1447, and was buried in St. Catherine's church, near the Tower.

[7] Ralph lord Cromwell, was lord treaſurer in 1434.

9. Item, the ſaid Earl, that all his days hath above all other earthly things deſired, and ever ſhall, to keep his truth and worſhip unblemiſhed and unhurt, and may not for all that let [*prevent*] malicious and untrue men to make informations of his perſon, ſuch as they may not, nor dare not ſtand by, nor be not true; beſeecheth therefore my Lord of Glouceſter, and all my ſaid Lords of the council, that if they or any of them have been informed of any thing that may be or ſound to his charge or default, and namely in his occupation and rule about the King's perſon, that the ſaid Earl may have knowledge thereof, to the intent that he may anſwer thereto, and not dwell in heavy or finiſter conceit or opinion without his deſert, and without anſwer.

Anſwer, it is agreed.

[7] CROMWELL.

[3] H. GLOUCESTRE.

[9] J. EBOR. [10] P. ELIEN.

[11] W. LINCOLN. [8] J. BATHEN CANC. [12] J. ROFFEN.

[5] SUFFOLK. [4] H. STAFFORD.

[6] J. HUNTYNGTON.

29 November, 1432,
11 H. VI.

[3] John Stafford, biſhop of Bath and Wells, and brother to the earl of Stafford, was lord chancellor. He was promoted to the ſee of Canterbury in 1443, and died in 1452.

[9] John Kempe was tranſlated from London to York, in 1426, and from this ſee to Canterbury, in 1452, where he died very old in 1453.

[10] Philip Morgan, biſhop of Worceſter, was tranſlated to Ely in 1426, he was a man of learning and wiſdom, and died in 1434.

[11] William Grey was tranſlated to the ſee of Lincoln, from that of London, in 1431, and died in 1435.

[12] John Langdon, elected biſhop of Rocheſter, in 1421, was both an antiquary and hiſtorian, and died at the council of Baſil in 1434.

Plate XVII. contains, as a ſpecimen of the whole, a Fac Simile of the concluſion of theſe articles, with all the autographs placed as they are ſubſcribed to the original parchment.

LET-

LETTER II.

A Petition to the Commons of England againſt Sr. William Paſton kt. a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas by William Dalling.

PLESIT to the righte ſage and wyſe cōes of this prſent plement that wher evry Juſtice of the Kyng is ſworne that he ſhulde not take no fees ne reward for to be of councell wt noo man but oonly wyth our ſovrayne lorde the Kyng and therto yei be ſwore.

Pleſe it to Coīes of the prſent plement that [1] William Paſton on of the Juſtice of oure ſovrayne Lorde Kyng takyth divrſe fees and rewardes of divrſes prſones wtinne the ſhir of Norff' and Suff' and is with holde wt evry materr in the ſayde contrees that is for to ſey of the Toune of Yernemuth ls yerly of the Abot of ſeyn Benetys xxvjs viijd of the Priorr of ſeyn Feithes xxs

On the back of this Petition, in a hand of the time, is written "Falſa Billa Willi Dalling "tras p'liament' temp'e pr. Henr. Grey trciodecimo Regis Henr. vjti."

By this endorſement the bill appears to have been declared a falſe one, and the petition rejected; it may therefore be ſuppoſed that the accuſations were ill-grounded. The reaſon for the charge might be this, that when Sir William was an acting Lawyer he received general retaining fees from corporations, religious ſocieties, and perſons of conſequence, to be their ſtanding counſel, and which, poſſibly might be continued to him after he became a judge, as a mark of their reſpect and as a reward for the good ſervices he had formerly done them; this might certainly give cauſe to ſuſpect his impartiality when any cauſes in which theſe ſocieties, &c. were concerned came before him.

This petition ſeems to originate from ſome part he had taken in favour of a lady, whereby the wardſhip of a minor was made leſs valuable to the king, or, moſt probably, to the perſon who had purchaſed it from the crown.

Such a conduct in thoſe times muſt have appeared very extraordinary, when the judges were entirely under the regal control.

"and

LETTER II.

A Petition to the Commons of England againſt Sir William Paſton, Knight, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, by William Dalling.

PLEASE it to the right ſage and wiſe Commons of this preſent Parliament, that where[*as*] every Juſtice of the King is ſworn that he ſhould not take no fees nor rewards for to be of counſel with no man, but only with our Sovereign Lord the King, and thereto they be ſworn.

Pleaſe it to [*the*] Commons of the preſent Parliament that [1]William Paſton one of the Juſtices of our Sovereign Lord [*the*] King taketh divers fees and rewards of divers perſons within the ſhires of Norfolk and Suffolk, and is withhold with every matter in the ſaid countries; that is to ſay,

Of the Town of Yarmouth, l^{li}. yearly.

Of the Abbot of St. Benet's xxvj^{s}. viij^{d}.

Of the Prior of St. Faith's xx^{li}.

[1] Sir William Paſton, was born in 1378, became a judge of the Common Pleas, in 1430, and from the propriety of his conduct was called The Good Judge. The following memorandum recorded by his widow of his death deſerves notice, as it ſhows the reverence paid to his corpſe, by kneeling at the foot of the bed on which it lay.

"On the thurſeday at nyght before our Ladys day the Aſſũpcon betwixt xj and xij "of the clokk in the yer of o^{r} Lord God MCCCC and xliiij, the Sondays l^{r}e on the D, "died my huſbond, God aſſoyle his ſowle; and on the fryday after I ſent for John "Paſton, John Dam, &c. and on the Wedynyſday after cam John Paſton, &c. And on "the fryday John Paſton, John Dam, and I yede into the chambre, and they deſyred of "me to ſee the Wyll, I lete them ſee it; and John Dam redde it, and when he had "redde it, John Paſton walkyd up and down in the chamb^{r}e John Dam and I knelyd "at the beddys fete."

Paper Mark. A Fleur de Lys, ſurmounted by a Coronet. Pl. xxi. N°. 2.

Of

" and of my [2] Lady Rothenhale xx[li]" and of the Prio[r] of Norwich x[li] and of the Prio[r] of Penteney xx[li] and of the toun of Lenn xl[li] and of the Prio[r] of Walſyngham xx[li] and of Kat[r]ine [3] Shelton x mrc ayeins the Kyng for to be of hir councell for to deſtroye the right of the King and of his Warde that is for to ſey [4] Raf ſoon and eyer of John Shelton.

1434. 13 H. VI.

[2] This ſentence in the original has a line drawn over it. She was a widow of Sir John Rothenhale, knight, and dying at Caiſter, by Yarmouth, in 1440, was buried in Norwich cathedral.

[3] Catharine, widow of William Shelton, eſq. and daughter of Simon Barret, was grandmother to Ralph, and died in 1456.

[4] Sir Ralph Shelton, knight, ſon and heir of John Shelton, eſq. was born in 1430, he married Margaret, daughter of Robert Clere, eſq. of Ormeſby, and was high ſheriff of Norfolk,

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LETTER III.

To our Right truſty
and hertily Welbeloved
John Paſton Squier.

{*Kat'yn Ducheſſe*
of Norff'.}

RIGHT truſty and entierly Welbeloved We grete you wel hertily as we kan And for as moche as we p[r]poſe w[t] grace of ihu to be at london w[t]in bryff tyme We pray you y[t] your place ther may be redy for us for we we wole ſende our Stuff thedir

Of my Lady [2] Rothenhale xx'.
Of the Prior of Norwich xl'.
Of the Prior of Pentney xx'.
Of the Town of Lynn xl'.
Of the Prior of Walſingham xx'.

And of Katharine [3] Shelton x marks [*6l. 13s. 4d.*] againſt the King for to be of her counſel for to deſtroy the right of the King and of his Ward, that is for to ſay, [4] Ralph, ſon and heir of John Shelton.

Paper Mark,
On the Memorandum,
A Fleur de Lys, ſurmounted
by a Coronet.
Pl. xxi. N° 2.

Norfolk, &c. in 1487. He died before 1500, and in the eaſt window of the north iſle of Shelton church, in Norfolk, were the effigies of him and his wife, in ſurcoats of their arms. He built both the church and hall, but the latter has been long in ruins.

LETTER III.

To our right truſty and heartily well beloved John Paſton, Eſq.

Katharine, Ducheſs of Norfolk.

RIGHT truſty and entirely well beloved, we greet you well [*as*] heartily as we can. And for as much as we purpoſe with grace of Jeſu to be at London within brief [*ſhort*] time, We pray you that your place there may be ready for us, for we

thedir to for our comyng and ſiche agrement as we toke w^t you for the ſame we ſhall duely p^rforme y^t w^t ye myght of ihu who haff you in his bliſſed keping Wretyn at Eppeworth the ij^de. day of Octobre.

11 ¾ by 4 ½.

Paper Mark,
A Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. xxii. N° 13.

We here ſee a lady of the firſt rank going to London in the beginning of the winter, to the houſe of one of her dependents, for which ſhe had agreed with him for the time of her ſtay in town, and by her ſtuff was meant moſt probably her beds, hangings, and other matters for the fitting up of her lodgings.

Katharine, ducheſs of Norfolk, widow of John Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, who died in 1433, was daughter of Ralph, lord Neville, firſt earl of Weſtmoreland, by Jane, daughter of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaſter.

LETTER JU.

To my Worſhepfull huſbond
John Paſton abidyng at
Petyrhous in Cambrigg.

RYTH reuerent and worſepful huſbon I recomawnde me to zow w^t alle my^n ſympyl herte and prey zow to wete y^t there come up xi hundyr flemyns at Waxhā q^er'of wer taky' and kylte and d^rouchȳ viij hūdyrte and y^i had nowte a be ze xul a be atte home yis qweſontyde and I ſuppoſe y^t ze xul be atte home er owte lōg be I thanke yow hertely for my lettyr for I hadde

nō

will ſend our Stuff thither tofore our coming; and ſuch agreement as we took with you for the ſame, we ſhall duly perform it with the might of Jeſu, who have you in his bleſſed keeping.

Written at Epworth the 2d day of October.

Epworth, in Lincolnſhire,
in the iſland of Axholm,
2d of October.
After 1434.

After the duke's death ſhe married in ſucceſſion, Thomas Strangeways, eſq. John viſcount Beaumont, and ſir John Widville, brother to Anthony, earl Rivers; wife or widow to one of which ſhe moſt probably was at the time this letter was written: though it might be written during her widowhood as ducheſs of Norfolk, as it is dated from the late duke's ſeat at Epworth, or Epleworth.

N. B. An old ducheſs of Norfolk, is ſaid to have died in 1475, Q7. if this lady.

LETTER IV.

To my worſhipful Huſband John Paſton, abiding at Peter-Houſe, in Cambridge.

RIGHT reverend and worſhipful huſband, I recommend me to you with all my ſimple heart, and pray you to weet that there came up eleven hundred Flemings at Waxham, thereof were taken and killed and drenchyn [*drowned*] eight hundred, and they had not have been, ye ſhould have been at home this Whitſuntide, and I ſuppoſe that ye ſhould be at home ereout long be.

I thank you heartily for my letter, for I had none of you

nō of zow ſyn I ſpooke w^{t} zow laſt of for ye matyr of Jon Mariot ye qweſt paſſyd nowte of y^{t} day for my lorde of Norfolke was ī towne for Wedyrbys matyr qwer for he wolde nowtlatyd paſe off for fury^{e} of I kowe fynche ne bylbys makey^{e} no purwyans for hys gode No mor I wryte to zow atte y^{is} tyme but ye holy trenyte hawe zow ī kepyng Wretȳ ī Norweche on trenyte Sune day.

Yowr,

Markarpte Paſton.

11 ¾ by 3 ¾.

I can fix no certain date to this Letter, either from this extraordinary account of the deſtruction of ſo great a number of Flemings, or from J. Paſton's reſidence at Peter Houſe, in Cambridge, though by this it appears to have been written early in his life, and ſoon after his marriage, which took place before the year 1440. The words too

" w^{t}

LETTER II.

To my rygth Worchepful huſbond
John Paſton dwellyng in ye inner
Temple at London in haſt.

RYTH worchipful hoſbon I recomande me to yow deſyryng hertely to her of yor wilfar thanckyng God of yor A mendyng of ye grete dyſeſe y^{t} ye have hade and I thancke yow for ye lett^{r} y^{t} ye ſent me for be my trowthe my mod^{r} and I wer nowth in hertys es fro ye tyme y^{t} we woſte of yor ſekeneſſe tyl we woſte verely of yor A mendyng my mod^{r} be heſtyd a

nodyr

ſince I ſpake with you laſt of for the matter of John Maryot; the Queſt paſſed not off that day, for my Lord of Norfolk was in town for Wedyrby's matter, wherefore he would not let it paſs off, for further of I kowe [*know, q.*] Fynch nor Bylbys maketh no purveyance for his good.

No more I write to you at this time, but the Holy Trinity have you in keeping. Written at Norwich, on Trinity Sunday.

Your,

MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,
Trinity Sunday.
Date uncertain.
After 1440. 19 H. VI.

"w^t alle m^y ſympyl herte" ſeem the expreſſion of a young and unexperienced woman. The writing and ſpelling likewiſe vary from her uſual manner; and her Chriſtian name is differently written.

Autograph. Pl. ii. N° 20.

LETTER V.

To my right worſhipful huſband John Paſton, dwelling in the Inner Temple at London, in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I recommend me to you, deſiring heartily to hear of your welfare, thanking God of your amending of the great diſeaſe that ye have had, and I thank you for the letter that ye ſent me, for by my troth my mother and I were nought in heart's caſe from the time that we wiſt [*knew*] of your ſickneſs, till we wiſt verily of your amending.

My

nodyr [1] ymmage of Wax of ye weytte of yow to oy^r^ lady of Walſyngh'm and ſche ſent iiij nobelys to ye iiij orderys of frerys at Norweche to pary for yow and I have be heſtyd to gon on pylgreymmays to Walſingh'm and to ſent [2] levenardys for yow be my trowth I had neu^r^ ſo heuy a ſeſyn as I had fro' ye tyme y^t^ I woſte of yor ſekeneſſe tyl I woſte of yor A mendyng And zyth myn hert is in no grete eſſe ne nowth xal be tyl I wott y^t^ ze ben very hal yor [3] fad^r^ and myn was dyſday ſevenyth at bekelys for a matyr of the pryor of Bromholme and he lay at Gerlyſton y^t^ nyth and was y' tyl it was ix of the cloke and ye tod^r^ day And I ſentte thedyr for a goune and my mod^r^ ſeyde y^t^ I xulde non have dan tyl I had be y' a non and ſo yei cowde non gete. My [4] fad^r^ garneyſs ſentte me worde y^t^ he xulde ben her ye nexch weke and my Emme Alſo and pleyn hem her w^t^ herr hawkys and yei xulde haue me hom w^t^ hem And ſo god help me I xal exſouſſe me of myn goyng dedyr yf I may for I ſopoſe y^t^ I xal redelyer have tydyngys from yow herr dan I xulde have y^r^ I xal ſende my mody^r^ a tokyn y^t^ ſche toke me for I ſopoſe ye tyme is cum y^t^ I xulde ſendeth her yf I kepe y^e^ be heſt y^t^ I have made I ſopoſe I have tolde yow wat it was

I pray

This is a moſt affectionate letter, and cannot be read without emotion; it gives us an high opinion of the writer's tenderneſs towards her huſband, her wiſh to have him at home, and under her tender care, "lever dan a new goune zow it wer of ſcarlette" ſhews the artleſſneſs of her regard, and impreſſes us with an idea of the pureſt ſimplicity.

The Letter was written after the birth of her ſon, and before the death of ſir William Paſton, I have therefore fixed it to 1443.

[1] This offering of an image of wax, of the weight of the perſon for whoſe good it was promiſed, is a curious circumſtance. The fame of our lady of Walſingham has been before remarked, in Letter VI. Vol. I. p. 21. Note.

[2] The church of the priory of St. Leonard, at Norwich, was famous at this time for the reſort of pilgrims to the images of the holy virgin, the holy croſs, and St. Anthony;

but

My Mother beheſted [*vowed*] another [1] Image of Wax of the weight of you, to our Lady of Walſingham, and ſhe ſent four Nobles [*1l. 6s. 8d.*] to the four Orders of Friars at Norwich to pray for you, and I have beheſted to go on Pilgrimage to Walſingham, and to [2] St. Leonard's for you; by my troth I had never ſo heavy a ſeaſon as I had from the time that I wiſt of your ſickneſs, till I wiſt of your amending, and yet my heart is in no great eaſe, nor nought ſhall be, 'till I weet that ye be very whole. Your [3] Father and mine was this day ſev'night at Beccles, for a matter of the Prior of Bromholm, and he lay at Gelderſtone that night, and was there till it was 9 of the clock, and the other day. And I ſent thither for a gown, and my mother ſaid that I ſhould none have then, till I had been there anon, and ſo they could none get.

My [4] Father Garneys ſent me word that he ſhould have been here the next week, and mine Emme alſo, and play them here with their Hawks, and they ſhould have me home with them; and ſo God help me, I ſhall excuſe me of my going thither if I may, for I ſuppoſe that I ſhall readilier have tidings from you here than I ſhould have there. I ſhall ſend my Mother a Token that ſhe took [*brought to*] me, for I ſuppoſe the time is come that I ſhould ſend it her, if I keep the beheſt that I have made; I ſuppoſe I

but became afterwards much more famous by the viſitation of pilgrims far and near, to the image of good king Henry VI. by whoſe miraculous effects great cures were ſuppoſed to have been performed.

[3] Sir William Paſton, the judge.

[4] This was probably her godfather, and Emme was very likely his daughter or niece, and Margaret Paſton's friend. The family of Garneys were at this time lords of Gelderſtone; they have continued a family of conſequence, and Charles Garneys eſq. a deſcendent from this branch, was high ſheriff of Norfolk, in 1777.

I pray yow hertely y^{t} wol wocheſaf to ſende me a lett^{r} as haſtely as ze may yf wryhyn be non dyſeſſe to yow And y^{t} ye wollen wocheſaf to ſende me worde quowe yor ſor dott yf I mythe have hade my wylle I xulde a ſeyne yow er dyſtyme I wolde ye wern at hom yf it wer yor eſe and yor ſor myth ben as wyl lokyth to her as it tys y' ze ben now lever dan a new goune zow it wer of ſcarlette I pray yow yf yor ſor be hol and ſo y^{t} ze may indur to ryde wan my fad^{r} com to london y^{t} ze wol aſkyn leve and com hom wan ye hors xul be ſentte hom a zeyn for I hope ze xulde be kepte as tend^{r}ly herr as ze ben at london I may non leyſer have to do wrytyn half a qrt^{r} ſo meche as I xulde ſeyn to yow yf I myth ſpeke w^{t} yow I xal ſende yow a nothyr lett^{r} as haſtely as I may I thanke yow y^{t} ze wolde wocheſaffe to rememb^{r} my gyrdyl and y^{t} ze wol de wryte to me at ye tyme for I ſopoſe ye wrytyng was non eſſe to yow All myth God have yow in his kepyn and ſende yow helth Wretyn at Oxenede in Ryth grete haſt on Sent Mikyllys Evyn.

Yorys,

[5] M. Paſton.

11 ½ by 5 ⅞.

My Modyr grette yow wel and ſendyth yow Goddys blyſſyng and hers and ſche prayeth yow and I pray yow alſo y^{t} ye be wel [6] dyetyd of mete and drynke for y^{t} is ye gretteſt helpe yat ye may have now to you^{r} helthe ward yor [7] ſone faryth wel blyſſyd be God.

[5] Autograph. Pl. ii. N° 20.

[6] This advice ſeems very proper, and the ſame would be recommended at this day.

LET-

have told you what it was; I pray you heartily that [*ye*] will vouchſafe to ſend me a Letter, as haſtily as ye may, if writing be none diſeaſe [*pain*] to you, and that ye will vouchſafe to ſend me word how your ſore do. If I might have had my will, I ſhould have ſeen you ere this time; I would ye were at home, if it were your eaſe, and your ſore might be as well looked to here as it is there ye be, now lever [*rather*] than a new Gown though it were of Scarlet. I pray you if your ſore be whole, and ſo that ye may endure to ride, when my father come to London, that ye will aſk leave and come home when the horſe ſhould be ſent home again, for I hope ye ſhall be kept as tenderly here as ye be at London. I may none leiſure have to do write half a quarter ſo much as I ſhould ſay to you if I might ſpeak with you. I ſhall ſend you another Letter as haſtily as I may. I thank you that ye would vouchſafe to remember my girdle, and that ye would write to me at the time, for I ſuppoſe that writing was none eaſe to you. Almighty God have you in his keeping, and ſend you health. Written at Oxnead, in right great haſte, on St. Michael's Even.

Yours,

[5] MARGARET PASTON.

Oxnead.
Saturday, 28th September, 1443. 22 H. VI.

My Mother greet you well, and ſendeth you God's bleſſing and hers; and ſhe prayeth you, and I pray you alſo, that ye be well [6] dieted of meat and drink, for that is the greateſt help that ye may have now to your healthward. Your [7] Son fareth well, bleſſed be God!

[7] This was moſt probably Sir John Paſton, who was born in 1442.

LETTER IJ.

To my right worthy and worſhepfull Lord
Will'm Paſton Juſtice in haſt.

PLEASE it yor good lordſhip to wete yat the chief Juſtice of the Kynggs benche recomaundeth hym to yow and is right ſory of ye matier yat is cauſe of yor noun comyng hedir but he wole do al yat he can or may for yow he hath hadde a cyetica yat hath letted hym a gret while to ride and dar not yet come on non horſes bak And y' for he hath ſpoke to ye lordes of ye Conſeill and enformed hem of yor ſekeneſſe and his alſo, yat he may not ride at yeſe next Aſsīes to Eſtgrynſted and yough yoe Aſs'ies diſcontynue pve^{r} noun venue dez Juſticez he hopeth to be excuſed and ye alſo And as for ye remen'nt of ye. ſs'ies he ſhall p'vey to be ther by water And almyghty Jeſu make yow heyle and ſtrong Wretyn right ſimply ye Wedneſday next to fore ye feſt of the Purificacon of our Lady at London.

By your moſt ſymple ſ^{r}vaunt,

^{z} Jamys Greſh'm.

12 by 4.

Paper Mark.
A Bell.
Pl. xxi. N° 1.

From this Letter we learn the time and place of holding the Aſſizes in Suſſex, one of the Counties which now makes a part of the Home Circuit; and we likewiſe underſtand that the Chief Juſtice intended going by water to thoſe places in Eſſex, Kent, and Surry, which lay along the river, no conveyance in any carriage being then thought of by him, though his illneſs was ſuch as prevented his riding on horſeback.

LET-

LETTER VI.

To my right worthy and worſhipful Lord, William Paſton, Juſtice, in haſte.

PLEASE it your good Lordſhip to weet, that the Chief Juſtice of the King's Bench recommendeth him to you, and is right ſorry of the matter that is [*the*] cauſe of your none coming hither; but he will do all that he can or may for you. He hath had a Sciatica that hath letted him a great while to ride, and [*be*] dare not yet come on none horſe's back, and therefore he hath ſpoken to the Lords of the Council, and informed them of your ſickneſs and his alſo, that he may not ride at theſe next Aſſizes to Eaſt Grinſtead; and though thoſe Aſſizes diſcontinue pur noun venu dez Juſticez, he hopeth to be excuſed and ye alſo. And as for the remanent of the Aſſizes, he ſhall purvey to be there by water; and Almighty Jeſu make you heyle [*healthy*] and ſtrong.

Written right ſimply, the Wedneſday next, to fore the feaſt of the Purification of our Lady, at London.

By your moſt ſimple Servant,

[1] JAMES GRESHAM.

London,
Wedneſday
30th of January, 1443.
22 H. VI.

John Hody was Chief Juſtice of the King's Bench from 1440 to 1462.

From a Memorandum on the back of this Letter, dated in April 1444, it is probable that it was written on the 30th of January, 1443.

[1] Autograph. Pl. III. N° 28.

LETTER VII.

To ye worthy and worſhipfull
Sr and my good lord and maiſter
William Paſton on of ye
Juſtices of oure ſovereign lord
of his Co'e benche at Weſtmr.

RIGHT worthy and worſhipfull Sr and my good lord and maiſter I recomaund me to yow And where as ye by your l're direct to my lady your wyf wold yt my ſeid Lady ſhuld have Rob't Tebald and me to geder as ſone as ſhe myght and ye evidences which ye ſeid Rob't receyved of yow at your laſt beyng at Norwich And yt I ſhuld amende ye defautes y'jnne And yt yt doon yere ſhuld of baxteres place of Honyng be taken eſtate to yow and to oyer as your ſeid l're requireth Prey and beſeche yow to witte yt on ye Friday next after your depʳtyng fro Paſton Thomᵉ Walyſsh and William Burgh in his owen pʳſone and ye ſeid Thomᵉ by William Inges and William Walſyngh'm his attornes by his l're under his ſeal where at Honyng, and delyvred to my lady Scarlet ſeſon in ye ſeid place and Colbyes and Donnynges in Walſh'm And ye ſeid Thomᵉ

As I have been requeſted by ſeveral gentlemen of the law to publiſh whatever Letters at all related to proceedings wherein any hints towards titles to eſtates, &c. were given, I have inſerted the above; the latter part of the Letter furniſhes us with one of the delicacies eaten during Lent, and informs us that an eminent phyſician lived at this time at Orwell, in Cambridgeſhire.

Walyſsh.

LETTER VII.

To the worthy and worſhipful Sir, and my good Lord and Maſter William Paſton, one of the Juſtices of our Sovereign Lord, of his Common Bench at Weſtminſter.

RIGHT worthy and worſhipful Sir, and my good Lord and Maſter, I recommend me to you; and whereas ye by your Letter direct [*directed*] to my Lady your wife, would that my ſaid Lady ſhould have Robert Tebald and me together, as ſoon as ſhe might, and the evidences which the ſaid Robert received of you at your laſt being at Norwich, and that I ſhould amend the defaults therein, and that done, there ſhould of Baxter's Place of Honing be taken eſtate to you and to other, as your ſaid Letter requireth. [*I*] pray and beſeech you to weet, that on the Friday next after your departing from Paſton, Thomas Walyſh and William Burgh in his own perſon, and the ſaid Thomas, by William Inges and William Walſyngham, his attornies by his letter under his ſeal, were at Honing, and delivered to my Lady Scarlet ſeiſin in the ſaid place, and Colby's and Donning's in Walſham. And the ſaid Thomas

I believe the writer was the father of Sir William Jenney, a Judge of the King's Bench in 1477, and died about 1460.

Autograph. Pl. XVIII. N° 1.

Walyſh,

Walyſsh as ye ſeid Tebald told me wold not enſeale ye ſeid l're of attorne til ye p^r^ſon of Ingeworth come to hym y'fore and required hym to don it Wychyngh'm in his owen p^r^ſone in ye nyght next beforn ye ſeid friday as ye ſeid Tebald infourmeth me come to ye ſame Tebaldes hows and deſired hym to enſeale acquytaunce as he ſeid and ye ſame Rob't refuſed to don it nerthe leſſe whether it were acquytaunce or were not ye ſame Rob't kan not ſeye for he myght noo ſight have y' of And ye ſeid Wychyngh'm ye ſame nyght rood to John Willyot and deſired of hym ye ſame and refuſed Alſo to don it What is ye beſt to be don in yis matier my ſeid lady your wyf kan not thynke with owt your advis and counſeile Wherfore as touchyng ye takyng of yeſtate to yow and oyer as in your ſeid l're is conteigned is yet right nought doon The holy Trinite have yow in his bliſſed kepyng Wretyn at North Walſh'm ye Thurſday next after ye purificacon of oure Lady.

My ſeid Lady your wyf preyeth yow to be remembred of here grene gynger of Almondes for lente and of the leche of Orwelde for here ſeknes encreſeth dayly upon here whereof ſhe is ſore a ferd.

By youre ſ^r^vūt,

John Gyney.

11 ½ by 4 ½.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

An Octangular Seal, having
a Merchant's Mark.
Pl. XXIII. N° 3.

LET-

Walyſh, as the ſaid Tebald told me, would not enſeal the ſaid letter of attorney till the Parſon of Ingworth come to him therefore, and required him to do it. Wychyngham in his own perſon in the night next before the ſaid Friday, as the ſaid Tebald informeth me, come to the ſame Tebald's houſe, and deſired him to enſeal acquittance, as he ſaid, and the ſame Robert refuſed to do it.

Nevertheleſs whether it were acquittance or were not, the ſame Robert cannot ſay, for he might no ſight have thereof; and the ſaid Wychyngham the ſame night rode to John Willyot and deſired of him the ſame, and [*he*] refuſed alſo to do it. What is the beſt to be done in this matter, my ſaid Lady your wife cannot think without your advice and counſel; wherefore as touching the taking of the eſtate to you and other, as in your ſaid letter is contained, is yet right nought done.

The Holy Trinity have you in his bleſſed keeping. Written at North Walſham, the Thurſday next after the Purification of our Lady.

My ſaid Lady your wife, prayeth you to be remembered of her green ginger of Almonds for Lent, and of the Leech [*Phyſician*] of Orwell, for her ſickneſs encreaſeth daily upon her, whereof ſhe is ſore afraid.

By your Servant,

JOHN GYNEY, [*Jenney*]

North Waltham,
Thurſday February,
before 1444.

LET-

LETTER VIII.

To Edmond Paſton
of Clyffordis jnne in
london be this l're take.

TO myn welbelovid ſone I grete yow wel and avyſe yow to thynkk onis of the daie of youre fadris counſeyle to lerne the lawe for he ſeyde manie tymis that ho ſo ev' ſchuld dwelle at Paſton ſchulde have nede to conne defende hym ſelfe the [1] Vikare of Paſton and yowre [2] fadre in lenttyn laſte was wher thorwe and acordidde and doolis ſette howe broode the weye ſchuld ben and nowe he hath pullid uppe the doolis and ſeithe he wolle makyn a dyche fro the corner of his walle ryght over the weye to the newe diche of the grete clooſe And there is a man in truntche hyzht Palmer to y[t] hadde of yowre fadre certein londe in truntche ov[r] vij yere or viij yere agoone for corn And trewli hathe paide all the yers And now he hathe ſuffrid the corne to ben w[t] ſette for viij[s] of rentte to Gymmyngh'm wich yowre fadre paide nevere Geffreie axid Palmere why the rentte was notte axid in myn huſbonddis tyme And Palmere ſeyde for he was a grete man and a wyſe man of the lawe And that was the Cawſe men wolde not axe hym the rentte I ſende yow the namis of the men that kaſte down the pittis that was Gynnis Cloſe wretyn in a bille cloſid in this lettre I ſendde yow

[1] We ſee that the ſame little contentions took place amongſt neighbours in the times here treated of, as too frequently happen at this day.

not

LETTER VIII.

To Edmund Paſton, of Clifford's Inn, in London, be this Letter taken.

TO mine well beloved Son, I greet you well, and adviſe you to think once of the day of your father's counſel to learn the law, for he ſaid many times that whoſoever ſhould dwell at Paſton, ſhould have need to con [*to know how to*] defend himſelf.

The [1] Vicar of Paſton and your [2] Father, in Lent laſt was, were thorough and accorded, and doles ſet how broad the way ſhould be, and now he hath pulled up the doles, and ſaith he will make a ditch from the corner of his wall, right over the way to the new ditch of the great cloſe. And there is a man in Trunch hight [*called*] Palmer too, that had of your father certain lands in Trunch over ſeven years, or eight years agone, for corn, and truly hath paid all the years; and now he hath ſuffered the corn to be withſet [*taken*] for eight ſhillings of rent to Gimmingham, which your father paid never; Geoffry aſked Palmer why the rent was not aſked in mine huſband's time, and Palmer ſaid, for [*becauſe*] he was a great man, and a wiſe man of the law, and that was the cauſe men would not aſk him the rent.

I ſend you the names of the men, that caſt down the pit, that was *(in)* Genney's Cloſe, written in a bill cloſed in this Letter.

[1] John Partrick, of Swathfield, was vicar of Paſton, from 1442 to 1447.
[2] Sir William Paſton, knight, died 13th of Auguſt 1444, aged 66.

not this lettre to make yow wery of Paſton for I leve in hoope And ye wolle lern that they ſchulle be made werye of her werke for in good feyth I dar welſeyne it was yowr fadris laſte wille to have do ryzht wel to that plaſe And that can I ſchewe of good p'fe thowe men wolde ſeye naye god make yow ryzht a good man and ſende goddis bleſſyng and myn Wrettyn in haſte at Norwich the thorſdaie aftir Candelmaſſe daie.

Wetith of yowre brothere John how manie Gyſtis wolle ſerve the parle' and the Chapelle at Paſton And what lenghthe they moſte be and what brede and thykkneſſe thei moſte be for yowre fadris wille was as j weene veryli that thei ſchuld be ix [3] enchis on wey And vij another weye And po'venthe therfor that thei mow be ſquarid there And ſentte hedre for here can non ſoche be hadde in this conttre And ſeye to yowre brothir John it weer wel don to thinkke on Stanſted [4] Chirche And I p'ye yow to ſende me [5] tydynggs from be yond ſee for here thei arn a ferde to telle ſoche as be reportid.

By yowr Modre,

[6] Augnes Paſton.

11 ½ by 7.

Paper Mark,
A Bull's or Goat's Head.
Pl. x. N° 8.

[3] Theſe dimenſions were for very ſubſtantial work, and ſhew the care and attention of the Teſtator to have his habitation to endure for a great length of time;—the veſtiges only of theſe buildings now remain, in which theſe ſtrong joiſts were to be placed.

I ſend you not this Letter to make you weary of Paſton, for I live in hope, and ye will learn that they ſhall be made weary of their work, for in good faith I dare well ſay it was your father's laſt will to have done right well to that place, and that can I ſhew of good proof though men would ſay nay. God make you right a good man, and ſend God's bleſſing and mine. Written in haſte at Norwich, the Thurſday after Candlemas-day.

Weet of your brother John how many joiſts will ſerve the parlour and the chapel at Paſton, and what length they muſt be, and what breadth and thickneſs they muſt be, for your father's will was, as I ween verily that they ſhould be nine [3] inches one way, and ſeven another way, and purvey therefore that they may be ſquared there, and ſent hither, for here can none ſuch be had in this country; and ſay to your brother John it were well done to think on [4] Stanſted church; and I pray you to ſend me [5] Tidings from beyond ſea, for here they are afraid to tell ſuch as be reported.

By your Mother,

[6] AGNES PASTON.

Norwich,
Thurſday, 4th of February,
1444-5. 23 H. VI.

[4] Stanſted Church in Suffolk—Dame Agnes had poſſeſſions in that pariſh.

[5] Theſe tidings relate to our foreign tranſactions, the giving up of Maine, Truces, &c. &c. on the King's marriage, which had taken place in November.

[6] Autograph. Pl. 11. N° 19.

LETTER IX.

To the moſt revr'ent fadr in god
the Archebiſshop of C'untrbury
Ch'nceler of Englond.

BESECHETH mekely zour Gracious lodſhip zour owne ſrv'nt and Oratour John Hauteyn Chapeleyn that Wher he hath dyvrs ſeutees and accons in lawe to be ſewed a zent. A. that was the wife of W. Paſton of the manr of Oxenedes in the Countee of Northfolk and for as meche as zour ſeid beſecher can gete no Counſell of men of co't to be wt hym in the ſeid mat's by cauſe that the ſeid W. P. was one of the kynges Juſtices And John P ſon and heir to the ſeid W P is al ſo a mon of Court That hit pleſe zour good lordſhip to aſſigne and moſt ſtreytly to Comaund [1] John Heydon [2] Thomas Lyttylton and John Oelſton to be of Counſell wt zour ſeid beſecher in the ſeid mat's and oder that he hath to do azenſt the ſeid Anneys and oder and zour ſaid beſecher ſhal contente hem well for their labor And that this be doo in the revrence of god and wey of Charite.

[3] John Hauteyn, Chapeleyn.

11 ½ by 5.

The manor of Oxnead had been in the Hauteyn family for many generations, and was ſold by ſome of that family upon a bad title; it was afterwards purchaſed by Sir William Paſton, on whoſe death, in 1444, John Hauteyn Clerk, (having been licenſed by the pope to leave his religious order and become ſecular,) ſet up his claim and recovered his inheritance, but about 1449 he with others releaſed his right to Agnes Paſton.

[1] A Lawyer and Recorder of Norwich.

LETTER IX.

To the moſt reverend father in God, the Archbiſhop of Canterbury, Chancellor of England.

BESEECHETH meekly your gracious Lordſhip, your own ſervant and orator John Hauteyn, Chaplain, that where(*as*) he hath divers ſuits and actions in law to be ſued againſt Agnes, that was the wife of William Paſton, of the manor of Oxnead, in the County of Norfolk; and for as much as your ſaid beſeecher can get no counſel of men of court to be with him in the ſaid matters, becauſe that the ſaid W. Paſton was one of the King's Juſtices, and John Paſton ſon and heir to the ſaid W. Paſton is alſo a man of Court, that it pleaſe your good Lordſhip to aſſign, and moſt ſtrictly to command [1] John Heydon [2] Thomas Lyttylton and John Olſton to be of counſel with your ſaid beſeecher in the ſaid matters, and other that he hath to do againſt the ſaid Agnes and other, and your ſaid beſeecher ſhall content them well for their labour, and that this be done in the reverence of God, and way of Charity.

[3] JOHN HAUTEYN, Chaplain.

About 1445.

[2] Afterwards the famous Judge Lyttelton.

[3] Autograph. Pl. XVIII. N° 2.

This backwardneſs of the Lawyers to be concerned againſt the Widow of the late Judge, ſhews a particular degree of reſpect to his memory, and to the character of his Son, then a Lawyer.

John Stafford, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, and a Cardinal, was Lord Chancellor from 1443 to 1447.

LETTER X.

To my right worchepfull
Cosyn Agnes Paston.

RIGHT worchepfull Cosyn I comand me to you and as for the mater that ye sent to me fore touchyng the Manr. callid Walshams in Walsham the trouth is youre Husbond soldyt to my moder upon condit'on that she shuld nevr sel it but to youre Sones John or William and for the suerte of the seid condit'on youre seid husbond as I conseyve ded the seid Manr. be charged with a gret annuyte upon the same conditon or the tyme that my seid moder toke estate of the whech I suppose ye shall synde sufficiant evydens if ye serge youre evydences therfor And I be seche almyty God kepe you wretyn at Geddyng the xv day of Septemb'r.

Yr Cosyn, Sr Roger
Chamberleyn.

12 by 4.

This Letter is so far curious, as it informs us of the conditions under which Estates were purchased, and strongly marks the inherent desire which Families have, that Estates once in their possession, should again revert to their descendents.

LETTER X.

To my right worſhipful Couſin, Agnes Paſton.

RIGHT worſhipful Couſin, I commend me to you, and as for the matter that ye ſent to me for, touching the Manor called Walſhams, in Walſham, the truth is, your huſband ſold it to my Mother upon condition that ſhe ſhould never ſell it but to your Sons John or William; and for the ſurety of the ſaid condition, your ſaid huſband, as I conceive, did [*cauſed*] the ſaid Manor [*to*] be charged with a great annuity upon the ſame condition, ere the time that my ſaid Mother took eſtate, of the which I ſuppoſe ye ſhall find ſufficient evidence, if ye ſearch your evidences therefore. And I beſeech Almighty God keep you; Written at Gedding, the xvth day of September.

Your Couſin,

Sir ROGER CHAMBERLEYN.

Gedding, Suffolk,
15th of September.
After 1444. 22 H. VI.
but in what year uncertain.

The Chamberlaynes were a Family of conſequence in Suffolk and Norfolk. The Subſcription under his own hand is particular, having the title Sir before the names.
Autograph. Pl. XVIII. N° 3.

LET-

LETTER XJ.

Tho my wele be lovyd Son
John Paſton be yis delyv'ed
in haſte.

SONNE I grete zow wele and lete zow wete y^t for as myche as zoure broyir Clement leteth me wete y^t ze deſyre feythfully my blyſſyng y^t blyſſyng y^t I prayed zoure fadir to gyffe zow ye laſte day y^t ev^r he ſpakke And ye blyſſyng of all ſeyntes undir heven and myn mote come to zow all dayes and tymes And thynke veryly non oy^r but y^t ze have it And ſhal have it w^t yat y^t I fynde zow kynde and wyllyng to ye wele of zoure fadres ſoule and to ye welfare of zoure breyeren Be my conſeyle dyſpoſe zoureſelfe as myche as ze may to have leſſe to do in ye worlde zoure fadye ſayde jn lityl byſynes lyeth muche reſte yis wor'd is but a yorough fare and ful of Woo And whā we departe y'fro rizth nouzght bere w^t us but oure good dedys and ylle And y' knoweth no man how ſoon god woll clepe hȳ And y' for it is good for ev'y creature to be redy qhom god vyſyteth hī he lovyth. And as for zoure breyeren yei wylle I knowe certeynly laboren all y^t in hē lyeth for yow. Oure lorde have zow in his blyſſed kepyng body and ſoule. Writen at Norwyche ye xxix day of Octobyr,

Be zoure Modir,

12 by 4.

M. P.

This Letter I ſhould ſuppoſe was written not long after Sir William Paſton's death in 1444, as it refers to the bleſſing which ſhe aſked of him to beſtow upon his Children, probably immediately after ſome ſickneſs or misfortune which had befallen her Son.

The ſtyle of it is that of a moſt affectionate Mother, and the introduction of his Father's ſaying is a maſterly ſtroke. Her own reflections are judicious, appoſite, and well timed,

and

LETTER XI.

To my well beloved Son, John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

SON, I greet you well, and let you weet, that for as much as your brother Clement letteth me weet that ye deſire faithfully my bleſſing; that bleſſing that I prayed your father to give you the laſt day that ever he ſpake, and the bleſſing of all ſaints under heaven, and mine mote [*muſt*] come to you all days and times; and think verily none other but that ye have it, and ſhall have it, with that [*on condition*] that I find you kind and willing to the weal of your Father's ſoul, and to the welfare of your brethren.

By my counſel diſpoſe yourſelf as much as ye may to have leſs to do in the world; your Father ſaid, "In little buſineſs lyeth much reſt." This world is but a thoroughfare, and full of woe; and, when we depart therefrom, right nought bear with us, but our good deeds and ill; and there knoweth no man how ſoon God will clepe [*call*] him; and therefore it is good for every creature to be ready. Whom God viſiteth him he loveth.

And as for your brethren they will I know certainly labour all that in them lyeth for you. Our Lord have you in his bleſſed keeping, body and ſoul. Written at Norwich, the 29th day of October.

By your Mother,

AGNES PASTON.

Norwich,
29th of October.
About or after 1444.

and the whole of the diſcourſe would do honour to a Parent at this day, when our thoughts, manners, and language are ſo much more refined than they were during the age in which this was written.

Autograph. Pl. 11. N° 19.

LETTER XIJ.

A Stevyn Scrope.

WORSCHEPEFUL and my right wel beloved Sone I comaund me to yow and hertily thank yow for yor good Av^{r}tismentys And right well avyſed l'res to me ſent from tyme to tyme and ſo pray yow of your good continuance pleſe it yow to wete yat for as mech as y^{s} p^{r}ſon Sr Thom's Howes cometh up at this tyme by the grevous purſewte of John Andreus and Heydon to apere be fore ye Right Worſchepeful S^{r} my right wel be loved brother yor fadir and other ye kynges Juges of ye Kynges benche I p'y zow hertily y^{t} ye wille have in remembraunce for to recomaund me to hym whan ye ſpeke with hym And for to thank hym for his rightful favo^{r} ſhewed in Sr Thom's matier and in alle other matiers yat toucheth me wheche ben attained in yat hey Courte And ſo it lyke yow pray hym of his good continuance And I ſhall doo ſerve it unto hym to my ſymple power for his good wyl to me ſhewed and to myne And I truſt to god yat he ſhal hold hym pleſid And yat it like yow to geve credence to ye ſeid Sr Thom's of yat he ſhal

At the bottom, in a hand more modern than that of the letter, is written, "*This Stephen Scroope was ſonne to Dame Millicent, late wife to Sir J. Faſtolf, and, as ſeemeth by this Lr̄e, maryed the daughter of Juſtice Yelverton, whereby the ſaid Sir John called hym brother.*"

This Letter is written in an eaſy yet reſpectful ſtyle, and the thanks of the writer are hinted in the moſt delicate manner, for the "*rightful favours*" conferred upon him.

Sir William Yelverton was appointed a Judge of the King's Bench, in 1444. 23 H. VI. and was continued in that high office by Edward IV.

LETTER XII.

To Stephen Scroope.

WORSHIPFUL and my right well beloved Son, I commend me to you, and heartily thank you for your good advertiſements, and right well adviſed Letters to me ſent from time to time, and ſo pray you of your good continuance.

Pleaſe it you to weet, that for as much as the Parſon Sir Thomas Howes cometh up at this time by the grievous purſuit of John Andrews and Heydon to appear before the right worſhipful Sir, my right well beloved brother, your father, and other the King's Judges of the King's Bench; I pray you heartily that ye will have in remembrance for to recommend me to him, when ye ſpeak with him, and for to thank him for his rightful favour ſhewed in Sir Thomas's matter, and in all other matters that toucheth me, which be attained in that High Court; and ſo it like you pray him of his good continuance, and I ſhall do ſerve it unto him [*recompence him*] to my ſimple power for his good will to me ſhewed, and to mine, and I truſt to God that he ſhall hold him pleaſed; and that it like you to give credence to the ſaid Sir Thomas of that he ſhall ſay to you

Autograph. Pl. 11. N° 15.

It appears from a Letter of William Paſton, to his brother John Paſton, dated 6th of September 1454, that Scroope was then either a Bachelor or Widower, a marriage being in contemplation at that time, between him and their Siſter Elizabeth. From the expreſſions there uſed, I am apt to believe he was then a Widower. If ſo, this Letter was written before that year.

ſey to zow for my Worſchepe and p'fyte And y^r this l're may recomaund me to my doghtir yor wyf be ſechyng ye bliſſed Trinite to ſende yow ye Acomplyſhment of yor good deſyre Wretyn at Caſtre ye xxx day of Octobr.

J. F.

10 by 5 ½.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

LETTER XIII.

To John Paſton dwellyng jn ye Tempyll at london be thys letter delyv'd ī haſt.

I Grete yow wele and lete yow wete that on y^e ſonday befor ſent Edmond After evyn Songe Augnes Ball com to me to my cloſett and Bad me good evyn and Clemēt Spycer w^t hyr and j acſyd hym what he wold and he aſkyd me why I had ſtoppyd jn ye kyngs wey and I Seyd to hym j ſtoppyd no wey butt myn owyn and aſkyd hym why he had Sold my lond to John Ball And he ſor he was nevyr a cordyd w^t yor fadyr and I told hym if hys fadyr had do as he dede he wold a be a Chamyd to A ſeyd as he ſeyd and all that tyme Waryn Herman lenyd ovyr the parklos and lyſtynd what we ſeyd and ſeyd y^t ye Chaunge was a rewly Chaunge for ye towne was un do y^erby and is ye werſe by an C li. And I told hym it was no curteſe to medyll hym jn a mat' Butt if he wer callyd to Councell and prowdly

for my worſhip and profit, and that this Letter may recommend me to my daughter your wife, beſeeching the bleſſed Trinity to ſend you the accompliſhment of your good deſire.

Written at Caiſter, the 30th day of Octoer.

JOHN FASTOLF.

Caiſter,
30th of October.
Between 1444 and 1454. 23 and 33 H. VI.

LETTER XIII.

To John Paſton, dwelling in the Temple at London, be this Letter delivered in haſte.

I Greet you well, and let you weet, that, on the Sunday before Saint Edmond, after even Song, Augnes Ball come to me to my cloſet and bad me good even, and Clement Spicer with her; and I aſked him what he would; and he aſked me why I had ſtopped in the King's way; and I ſaid to him, I ſtopped no way but mine own, and aſked him why he had ſold my land to John Ball, and he ſwore he was never accorded with your father; and I told him if his father had done as he did, he would have been aſhamed to have ſaid as he ſaid; and all that time Waryn Herman leaned over the park cloſe and liſtened what we ſaid; and ſaid that the change was a rewly [*grievous*] change, for the town was undo [*undone*] thereby, and is the worſe by an 100*l.* And I told him it was no courteſy to meddle him in a matter but if [*unleſs*] he were called to council; and proudly going forth

prowdly goyn forthe w^t me jn ye Cherche he ſeyd the Stoppyng of ye Wey xuld coſte me xx nobylls and zet it ſhuld downe Ageyn And j lete hym wete he y^t putte it downe chull pay y^erfor Alſo he ſeyd y^t it was well don y^t j Sett men to Werke to ^r owle meney whyll I was her butt jn ye ende I chale leſe my coſte than he aſkyd me why I had a wey hys hey at Walſ'm ſeyng to me he wold he had wyſt it whan it was karryd and he chuld A lettyd it and j told hym it was myn owyn grownde and for myn owyn I wold holde it and he bad me take iiij Acr' And go no ferther and thus Churtly he departyd fro me jn ye Cherche zerde and ſyt j ſpacke w^t a ſerteyn man and acſyd hym if he herd owt ſey why ye dyner was mad att Norfolkys howſe and he told me herd ſey that ſerteyn men had ſentt to london to gete A Comyſſyon owt of ye Chaunſtre to putt downe ageyn ye Wall and ye dyk I Receyvyd yor letter by Rob' Reppys thys day aft^r thys lett^r wretyn thus far I have Red it butt I con' yeve yow non Aunſwer mor than I have wretyn Save the wyfe of Harma' hathe ye name of owr lady whos blyſſyn ye have and myn Wretyn at Paſton on ye day after Sent Edmond.

Be yowyr modyr,

[illegible] Agnes Paſton.

11 ¾ by 7 ½.

LET.

I have given this Letter as a ſpecimen of diſputes which frequently ariſe at preſent, as well as in former times, when either encroachments are really made by the principal Perſon in a pariſh, or when any act is done which appears ſuch to ſome ſelf-important little owner. Which party was right in this matter is at this diſtance of time very immaterial; it only ſhews human nature to have been the ſame yeſterday and to-day.

It may not be entirely foreign to the purpoſe in this place juſt to obſerve, how very beneficial both to the public and to individuals the Act of the 13 Geo. III. is contrived, whereby Roads are ordered to be diverted and turned upon a view of two Juſtices. This Act certainly gives great power to the Gentlemen in the Commiſſion of the Peace, but as long

forth with me in the church, he ſaid, the ſtopping of the way ſhould coſt me twenty nobles (*6l. 13s. 4d.*) and yet it ſhould down again. And I let him weet, he that put it down ſhould pay therefore.

Alſo he ſaid that it was well done that I ſet men to work to [1] owl many while I was here, but in the end I ſhall loſe my coſt. Then he aſked me why I had away his hay at Walſham, ſaying to me he would he had wiſt it, when it was carried, and he ſhould a letted [*have hindered*] it; and I told him it was mine own ground, and for mine own I would hold it; and he bad me take four acres and go no farther; and thus churtly [*churliſhly q.?*] he departed from me in the church-yard; and ſince I ſpake with a certain man, and aſked him if he heard ought ſay why the dinner was made at Norfolk's houſe, and he told me, [*he*] heard ſay that certain men had ſent to London to get a Commiſſion out of the Chancery to put down again the wall and the dyke. I received your Letter by Robert Repps this day, after this Letter (*was*) written thus far; I have read it, but I can give you none anſwer more than I have written, ſave the wife of Harman hath the name of our Lady, whoſe bleſſing ye have and mine. Written at Paſton, on the day after Saint Edmond.

By your Mother,

[2] AGNES PASTON.

Paſton,
17 November, after 1444. 23 H. VI.

long as that Power is directed to the benefit of the public, no one ought to find fault with it; though, if the private Intereſt of Individuals ſhould often ſuperſede the public convenience, an alarm ought then to be taken, and it will perhaps become neceſſary to repeal, or at leaſt to alter, an Act wiſely planned for the common benefit.

[1] To owl may ſignify to deceive, as an Owler is a perſon who carries contraband goods in the night; though I rather think it means in this place to oil, that is to ſmooth to her purpoſe, but q.?

[2] Autograph Pl. 11. N° 19. Seal imperfect, but ſee Letter LXXV.

LET-

LETTER XIII.

To my right revr'ent maſtras
Agnes Paſton be yis l're
delyvr'yd in haſte.

RYGH wrchepful maſtres I recomaund me un to yow thankyng yow of ye gret chere yt ze made me ye laſt tyme yt I was wt zow maſtres in alle zor godys and ocupacyons yt lyth in my ſimpil power to do in wurd wil and dede I have do my dylygens and my power y'to ſo I be ſavyd be fore god and have owyn to yor prſon ryght herty love for ye qwych I am ryght ille aqwyt And it be as I undrſtande yt for it is do me to wete yt I am ſwid wt mor of my pryſhchons For a reſkuſe makyng up on ye offycers of ye ſhrewys And I take god to record yt it is wrongfully do on to us And ye gret fray yt yc mad in ye tyme of maſſe it ravyched my witts and mad me ful hevyly dyſpoſyd I p'y Ihu gef hem g'ce to repent hem y' of yt yc yt cauſed it may ſtand owt of prel of ſoule Mayſtras at ye revrens of god and as evyr I may do ſrvyce yt may be pleſyng on to yow ſend me juſtyly wurd be ye brynger of yis bylle ho ze wil yt I be gydyd for it is told me yt if I be take I may no oyr remedy havȳ but ſtreyth to p'ſon For ye whiche I have ſold awaye xxs

wurth

This letter contains a curious fact. It appears by it that the Sheriff's Officers had arreſted a Perſon in the Church during Maſs, and that the Prieſt and ſome of the Congregation had reſcued him, for which a ſuit was commenced againſt them. This ſhews the power of the Sheriff at this time, when even a Church, during the time of divine ſervice,

could

LETTER XIV.

To my right reverend Miſtreſs, Agnes Paſton, be this Letter delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful Miſtreſs, I recommend me unto you thanking you of the great cheer that ye made me the laſt time that I was with you; Miſtreſs, in all your goods and occupations that lyeth in my ſimple power to do in word, will, and deed, I have do [*done*] my diligence and my power thereto, ſo I be ſaved before God; and have owen to your perſon right hearty love, for the which I am right ill acquit [*requited*] and [*if*] it be as I underſtand it, for it is do [*done*] me to weet, that I am ſued with more of my Pariſhioners, for a reſcue making upon the officers of the Sheriff; and I take God to record that it is wrongfully do [*done*] unto us. And the great fray that they made in the time of Maſs, it raviſhed my wits, and made me full heavily diſpoſed; I pray Jeſu give them grace to repent them thereof, that they that cauſed it may ſtand out of peril of ſoul.

Miſtreſs, at the reverence of God, and as ever I may do ſervice that may be pleaſing unto you, ſend me juſtly word, by the bringer of this bill, how ye will that I be guided; for it is told me that, if I be taken, I may no other remedy havyn [*have*] but ſtraight to priſon; for the which I have ſold away 20*s.*

could not protect a perſon againſt whom his Proceſs had been iſſued. A Murderer or Robber might have claimed ſanctuary, but a poor Debtor ſeems to have had no ſuch privilege.

Autograph Pl. XVIII. N° 4.

wurth of Stuffe and ye reſwd of my ſtuff I have put it in ſwier hande For trwly I wil not abyde ye jop^rte of ye ſwth I have levir to go as far as my Fet may ber me nevir ye leſs as ze komand me to do ſo it be not to my gret hurt I wil fulfille it Nomor to zow at y^is tyme but god ſend yow y^t g'ce y^t ze may kome to his blyſs Wreten at bromholm in gret haſte.

Be yor

Sr. Robert Willpa'ſon.

11 ¼ by 4 ½.

LETTER XU.

* *A l're to Sr. John Faſtoff from Juſtice Yelverton.*

MY moſte worſhypfull and beſt betruſted maiſtr I recōmaund me to yow thankyng yow for manye grete gentleneſſe and kyndneſſe that ye hafe ſhowed unto me and for the grete eaſe that I had of your man and your horſys alſo. As for tydyngs owte of thys Contree here ys a m^rveyllous diſpoſed Contree and manye evylle wylled peple to Sr. Thomas Tuddenh'm and Heydon And but yff they been putt in Comfort there by the

The date of this Letter cannot be aſcertained, though it muſt have been written after 1444, when William Yelverton was appointed a Judge of the King's Bench. He ſeems to fear a party, in oppoſition to him, in Norfolk, would injure him with the King and Lords, and therefore wiſhes for Sir John Faſtolf's interference to prevent it.

meene

worth of Stuff, and the reſidue of my ſtuff I have put it in ſure hand, for truly I will not abide the jeopardy of the ſwth [*ſuit*,] I have levir [*had better*] to go as far as my feet may bear me; nevertheleſs as ye command me to do, ſo it be not to my great hurt, I will fulfill it. No more to you at this time, but God ſend you that grace, that ye may come to his bliſs. Written at Bromholm, in great haſte.

By Your,

SIR ROBERT WILLIAMSON.

No certain date,
After 1444. 23 H. VI.

LETTER XV.

* *A Letter to Sir John Faſtolf, from Juſtice Yelverton.*

MY moſt worſhipful and beſt betruſted maſter, I recommend me to you, thanking you for many great gentleneſs and kindneſs that ye have ſhewed unto me; and for the great eaſe that I had of your men and your horſes alſo.

As for tidings out of this country, here is a marvellous diſpoſed country, and many evil willed people to Sir Thomas Todenham and Heydon, and but if they be put in conſort there by the mean

The Judge's Mother was Widow to Robert Clere, and by that means he was half brother to Edmund Clere, of Stokeſby. Autograph. Pl. 11. N° 94.

* This is written on the back of the Letter, which has no direction, in an ancient hand.

meene of a gode Shyreve and Undreſhyreve they may hafe remedye now by the ordre of lawe. And ellys grete jnconvenices arn lyke for to folowe ther off. therfor Sr. for the weele of all our gode Contree mewyth the kyng my lord Chūncell'r and all othyr lordes as ye thynk beſt for thys matier on thys behalf. Alſo Sr. yff they noyſſe me by thee meene of my lord Scalys or by anye othyr meene or by onye bylle ſewed by Brygg or by onye othyr man by her Craft that it pleaſe yow to ſey for me yn ſāvacōn of my pore worſhyp whych I wote well they may not hurt but they doo me wrongs to the kyng my lord Chūncell'r my lord of Wyncheſt'r my lord Cromewell and yn othyr places as ye ſemyth that no credence be goven to myne hurt yn myne abſence. Alſo Sr. that William Geney and Brayn the Clerks of the Seſſions ben haſtyed hedreward as well as they may And Sr. my Couſyn Paſton and my brothyr Cleere can tell yow moch more thyng that j ſhuld wryte off to yow And I had leyſer but j ſhall wythynne ſhort tyme ſende yow more tydyngs owte of thys contree by the grace of god whych hafe yow yn hys holye kepyng.

By your old Srvaunt,

William Pelverton, Juſtice.

12 by 5 ¾.

Paper Mark,
Cap and Fleur de Lys.
Pl. VIII. N° 4.

LET-

of a good Sheriff and Underſheriff, they may have remedy now by the order of law, and elſe great inconveniences are like for to follow thereof; therefore Sir, for the weal of all our good country, move the King, my Lord Chancellor, and all other Lords as ye think beſt for this matter on this behalf. Alſo Sir, if they noiſe me by the mean of my Lord Scales, or by any other mean, or by any bill ſued by Brygg, or by any other man by their craft, that it pleaſe you to ſay for me in ſavation [*ſalvation*] of my poor worſhip, which I wot well they may not hurt, but [*unleſs*] they do me wrongs to the King, my Lord Chancellor, my Lord of Wincheſter, my Lord Cromwell, and in other places, as ye ſeemeth, that no credence be given to mine hurt in mine abſence. Alſo Sir that William Jenney and Brayn [*q. Bryan*] the Clerks of the Seſſions, be haſted hitherward as well as they may; and Sir my Couſin Paſton and my brother Clere can tell you much more thing that I ſhould write of to you, and [*if*] I had leiſure, but I ſhall within ſhort time ſend you more tidings out of this country, by the grace of God, which have you in his holy keeping.

By your old Servant,

WILLIAM YELVERTON, Juſtice.

LET-

LETTER XVI.

To my ryth wrchypful hwſbond
Jon Paſton be yis lettyr delyveryd
jn haſt.

RYTH wyrchypful hwſbond I recomawnd me to zw deſyrȳg hertyly to heryn of zr wel fare prayīg zw to wete yat I was wt my lady [1] Morley on ye Satyrday next aftr yat ze deprtyd from hens and told here qhat anſwer yt ze had of Jon Butt and ſche toke jt ryth ſtrawgely and ſeyd yat ſche had told zw and ſchewyd zw. j now qher by ze myth haue knowleche yt ye releve owt to ben payd to her And ſche ſeyd ſche wyſt wel yt ze delay jt forye yat ſche xuld nowth haue yat longyth to her ryth And ſche told me hw jt was payd in Thomas Chawmbers tym qhan her dowtr haſtȳgs was weddyd And ſche ſeyd ſythyn yat ze wyl make none end wt her ſche wyl ſew y'fore as law wyl I cōſeyvyd be here yat ſche had cwnſel to labore azens zw yrjn wrjn ryth ſchort tym. And yan I prayd her yt ſche wuld vwche ſave nowth to labowr azens zw jn yis mater tyl ze kom hom and ſche ſeyd nay be her feyth ſche wuld no more days zeve zw y'jn ſche ſeyd ſche had ſett zw ſo many days to a kord wt her and ze had broke yem yat ſche was ryth wery y'of And ſche ſeyd

There is nothing particularly intereſting to many readers in this long Letter, but as it contains ſeveral traits of common life, and ſuch occurrences as daily happen now as well as between three and four centuries ago, I have ventured to give it, as a picture of the tranſactions of mankind one with another.

[1] Lady Morley was the Daughter of a Lord Spencer or Deſpencer, and had to her firſt

LETTER XVI.

To my right worſhipful huſband, John Paſton, be this Letter delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I recommend me to you, deſiring heartily to hear of your welfare, praying you to weet that I was with my Lady [1] Morley on the Saturday next after that ye departed from hence, and told her what anſwer that ye had of John Butt, and ſhe took it right ſtrangely, and ſaid that ſhe had told you and ſhewed you enough, whereby ye might have knowledge that the relief ought to be paid to her; and ſhe ſaid ſhe wiſt well that ye delay it forth that ſhe ſhould not have that longeth [*belongeth*] to her right; and ſhe told me how it was paid in Thomas Chamber's time, when her daughter Haſtyngs was wedded; and ſhe ſaid ſince that ye will make none end with her, ſhe will ſue therefore as law will.

I conceived by her that ſhe had counſel to labour againſt you therein within right ſhort time, and then I prayed her that ſhe would vouchſafe not to labour againſt you in this matter till ye came home, and ſhe ſaid nay by her faith, ſhe would no more days give you therein; ſhe ſaid ſhe had ſet you ſo many days to accord with her, and ye had broke them, that ſhe was right

[1] firſt huſband Sir Hugh Haſtyngs, of Elſing, in Norfolk; after his deceaſe ſhe married Thomas, Lord Morley, and was not his widow, and muſt have been conſiderably advanced in age. She ſeems to have had right on her ſide, as the Mawteby Eſtate in Sparham had been granted away by the family of Haſtyngs, and moſt probably under a reſerved rent or relief.

ſeyd ſche was but a woman ſche muſt don be her Cownſeyl and her cwnſeyle had avyſyd her ſo ſche ſeyd ſche wyld do yan I prayd her azyn yat ſche would teryn tyl ze kom hom and j ſeyd I troſtyd veryly yat ze wuld don qhan ze kom hom as jtt long^{t} to z^{w} to don And if ze myth have very knowleche yat ſche awyth of ryth for to haue jtt I ſeyd I wyſt wel yat ze wuld pay jt w^{t} ryth gode wyl And told her yat ze had ſergyd to a fownd wrytyng y'of and ze kwd non fynd in non wyſe And ſche ſayd ſche wyſt wele y' was wrytȳg y'of jnow And ſche hath wrytyng y'of hw ſyr robert of Mawthby and Sr Jon and my grawnſyre and dyv^{r}ſe oy^{r} of mȳ awnceſt^{t}ys payd jt and ſeyd nevyre nay y'to. And jn no wyſe I kwd not geyn no grawnth of her to ſeſyn tyl ze kom hom. And ſche bad me yat I xuld don an er'nd to my mod^{r} and qhan I kam hom I dede myn er'nd to her And ſche axyd me jf I had ſpokyn to my lady of yis forſeyd mater. And I told her hw I had do and qhat anſwer I had And ſche ſeyd ſche xuld gon to my lady Morles on ye nexſt day and ſche xuld ſpeken to her y'of and a ſay to getyn grawnt of her to ſeſyn of ye forſayd mater tyl yat ze kom hom And t^{u}ly my mod^{r} dede her dever ryth feythfully y'jn. as my coſyn Clare xal tellyn z^{w} qhan yat he ſpek^{t} w^{t} z^{w} And ſche gete grawnt of my ſeyd lady y^{t} y' xuld nowth ben don azens zw y'in and ze wold acordyn w^{t} her and don as ze owyn to do be twyx yis tym and t'nyte ſūday. Laverawce rede of Mawthby recōmawd^{t} hym to z^{u} and prayt z^{w} yat ze wyl vwcheſave to leten hym byn of z^{w} ye ferm barly yat ze xuld have of hym and if ze wyl laten hym have jt

to

weary thereof; and ſhe ſaid ſhe was but a woman, ſhe muſt do by her counſel, and [*as*] her counſel had adviſed her, ſo ſhe ſaid ſhe will do; then I prayed her again that ſhe would tarry till ye came home, and I ſaid I truſted verily that ye would do when ye came home, as it longeth to you to do, and if ye might have very knowledge that ſhe ought of right for to have it, I ſaid I wiſt well that ye would pay it with right good will; and told her that ye had ſearched to have found writing thereof, and ye could none find in none wiſe; and ſhe ſaid ſhe wiſt well there was writing thereof enough, and ſhe hath writing thereof how Sir Robert of Mawteby, and Sir John, and my Grandſire and divers other of my anceſtors paid it, and ſaid never nay thereto; and in no wiſe I could not get no grant of her to ceaſe till ye came home; and ſhe bad me that I ſhould do an errand to my mother, and when I came home I did mine errand to her, and ſhe aſked me if I had ſpoken to my Lady of this foreſaid matter, and I told her how I had done, and what anſwer I had; and ſhe ſaid ſhe ſhould go to my Lady Morley's on the next day, and ſhe ſhould ſpeak to her thereof, and eſſay to get grant of her to ceaſe of the foreſaid matter till that ye come home; and truly my mother did her devour [*endeavour*] right faithfully therein, as my Couſin Clere ſhall tell you when that he ſpeak with you; and ſhe got grant of my ſaid Lady that there ſhould nought be done againſt you therein, and [*if*] ye would accord with her, and do as ye ought to do betwixt this time and Trinity Sunday.

Laurence Reed of Mawteby recommendeth him to you, and prayeth you that ye will vouchſafe to let him buy of you the farm barley that ye ſhould have of him, and if ye will let him have

to a reſonabyl p'ſ he wyl have jt w^t ryth a gode wyl and he p'yit z^w jf ze wyl yat he have jt yat ze wyl owche ſave to ſend hym w'd at qhat p'ſ he xuld have ye kowmb as haſtyly as ze may And ellys he muſt be purvayd in oy^r plaſe. As twchȳg oy^r tydȳgs I ſopoſe Jon of Dam xal ſend z^w w'd jn a lett^r. As jt js told me veryly Heydon xal not kom at London y^is term. It is feyd jn yis Contre yat Danyell js owth of ye kȳgs gode grafe and he xal dwn and all hys mene and all y^t ben hys wele wyllers ye xal no man ben ſo hardy to don ney^r ſeyn azens my lord of [a] Sowthfolk nere non yat long^t to hym. And all yat hau' don and ſeyd azens hym yey xul ſore repent hem. Kateryn Walſam xal be weddyd on ye mūday nexſt aft^r. t'nyte ſonday as it is told me to ye galau'te w^t ye grete [3] chene And y' js p'vayd for her meche gode aray of gwnys gyrdelys and atyrys and meche oy^r gode aray And he hathe p'cheyſyd a gret purcheys of v mark be zer to zevyn her to her joynture.

I am aferd yat Jon of [4] Sp'h'm is ſo ſchyttyl wyttyd yat he wyl ſett hys gode to morgage to Heydon or to ſū oy^r of ywre gode frendys but if I can hold hym inne ye bett^r ere ze kom hom he hath ben areſtyd ſythyn yat ye went and hath had moche ſorw at ye ſewte of mayſt^r Joh Stoks of Lōdon for x mark y^t Sp'ham owt to hym, and in gode feyth he hath had ſo moche ſorow and hevyneſſe yat he wyſt nowth qhat he myth don I fell hym ſo

[a] At this time William de la Pole, Marquis of Suffolk, received the greateſt marks of favour from the Queen, and was very ſoon after the writing of this Letter created Duke of Suffolk.

it to a reaſonable price, he will have it with right a good will, and he prayeth you if ye will that he have it, that ye will vouchſafe to ſend him word at what price he ſhould have the Comb as haſtily as ye may, and elſe he muſt be purveyed in other place.

As touching other tidings, I ſuppoſe John of Damme ſhall ſend you word in a Letter. As it is told me verily Heydon ſhall not come at London this term.

It is ſaid in this Country that Daniel is out of the King's good grace, and he ſhall down and all his men, and all that be his well willers, there ſhall no man be ſo hardy to do neither ſay againſt my Lord of [2] Suffolk, nor none that longeth to him, and all that have done and ſaid againſt him, they ſhall ſore repent them. Katharine Walſham ſhall be wedded on the Monday next after Trinity Sunday, as it is told me, to the galant with the great [3] chain; and there is purveyed for her much good array of Gowns, Girdles, and Attires, and much other good array, and he hath purchaſed a great purchaſe of five marks *(3l. 6s. 8d.)* by the year to give her to her jointure.

I am afraid that John of [4] Sparham is ſo ſchyttyl [*light*] witted, that he will ſet his goods to mortgage to Heydon, or to ſome other of your good friends, but if [*unleſs*] I can hold him in the better, ere ye come home; he hath been arreſted ſince that ye went, and hath had much ſorrow at the ſuit of Maſter John Stokes of London for ten marks (6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) that Sparham owed to him; and in good faith he hath had ſo much ſorrow and heavineſs that he wiſt not what he might do; I feel

[3] It appears that chains of gold were at this time worn as ornaments of dreſs, and that this gallant out-did his contemporaries in the ſize of his.

[4] The Sparhams were an ancient family, reſiding at Sparham, in Norfolk: this was the laſt male of that branch, and ſeems with himſelf to have finiſhed his eſtate, &c.

diſpoſyd yat he wold aſold and aſett to morgage all yat he hath he had nowth rowth to qhom ſo yat he myth an had mony to an holpyn hym ſelf wyth, and I entretyd hym ſo yatt I ſopoſe he wyll noy^{r} ſellyn ner ſett to morgage noy^{r} catel ner oy^{r} gode of heſe tyl he ſpeke w^{t} zw he ſopoſeth yat al yat is don to hym is att ye requeſt of ye p'ſon of Sp'h'm and Knatylſale. I ſopoſe it is almas to cōfort hym for in gode feyth he is ryth hevy and hys wyf al ſo he is nowth nw und^{r} areſt he hath payd hys feys and goth at large he was areſtyd att Sp'h'm of on of Knatyſales men. Hodge Feke told me yatt Sym Schepherd is ſtyl w^{t} Wylly and if ze wyl I xal p^{r}vey y^{t} he xal be browth hom er ze kom hom. It is told me yat he yatk ept z^{r} ſchep was owth lawyd on mūday at ye ſwth of S^{r}. Thom's Todȳh'm, and if it be ſo ze arn nowth lyk to kepe hym longe, and as twchyng y^{t} yat ze badeyn me ſpekyn for to Bakton he ſeyth he is wel avyſyd yat ſche ſeyd ſche wuld nev^{r} have to don w^{t} all ner he kan not pek yat ſche hath non ryth to have it, and he wyl ſay lyche as he hath herd her ſeyd, and if ſche ſpeke to hym y^{r}of he wyll ray^{r} hold w^{t} z^{w} yan w^{t} her, I p'y ye y^{t} ze wyl vwche ſave to ſend me wd hw ze ſpede in z^{r} matt^{r} twchyng Greſſam and hw Danyel is in grace, Herry Goneld hath browth to me xl s. of Greſſam ſyn ze zede and he ſeyth I xal have more or qhythſon tyd if he may pyk it up, I ſopoſe Jamys Greſſam hath told z^{w} of oy^{r} thȳgs y^{t} I have ſped ſyn ze zedyn hens, If I her any ſtraw'ge tydȳgs in y^{is} contre I xall ſend z^{w} w'd, I p'y zw y^{t} I may ben recom'awdyd to my lord Danyel.

Ye

him ſo diſpoſed that he would have ſold and have ſet to mortgage all that he hath, he had not rowth [*cared*] to whom, ſo that he might have had money to have holpen himſelf with; and I entreated him ſo, that I ſuppoſe he will neither ſell nor ſet to mortgage, neither cattle nor other goods of his, till he ſpeak with you; he ſuppoſeth that all that is done to him is at the requeſt of the parſon of Sparham and Knatyſale. I ſuppoſe it is alma to comfort him, for in good faith he is right heavy, and his wife alſo; he is not now under arreſt, he hath paid his fees, and goeth at large; he was arreſted at Sparham, of one of Knatyſale's men.

Hodge Feke told me that Sym Shepherd is ſtill with Wylly, and if ye will I ſhall purvey that he ſhall be brought home ere ye come home. It is told me that he that kept your ſheep, was outlawed on Monday, at the ſuit of Sir Thomas Todenham, and if it be ſo, ye are not like to keep him long. And as touching that, that ye bad me ſpeak for to Bacton, he ſaith he is well adviſed that ſhe ſaid ſhe would never have to do with all, nor he cannot pick that ſhe hath none right to have it, and he will ſay like as he hath heard her ſay, and if ſhe ſpeak to him thereof, he will rather hold with you than with her. I pray you that ye will vouchſafe to ſend me word how ye ſpeed in your matter touching Greſham, and how Daniel is in grace. Harry Goneld hath brought to me 40*s.* of Greſham ſince ye went, and he ſaith I ſhall have more ere Whitſuntide, if he may pick it up.

I ſuppoſe James Greſham have told you of other things that I have ſped ſince ye went hence. If I hear any ſtrange tidings in this country I ſhall ſend you word. I pray you that I may be recommended to my lord Daniel.

The

Ye holy trynyte have z^{w} jn hys kepȳg and ſend z^{w} helth and gode ſpede jn al z^{r} maters twchyng z^{r} ryth. Wretyn at norwyche on ye wedenys day nexſt aft^{r} yatt ze p^{r}tyd hens.

Yors,

5 Margarete Paſton.

11 ½ by 11.

Paper Mark,
A Bull.
Pl. IX. N° 10.

5 Autograph. Pl. II. N° 20.

LETTER XVII.

To the King oure Sou^{r}ayn lord,

SHEWETH and pitevouſly Compleyneth youre humble trewe obeiſantes Comunas of this youre nobile Reaume in this youre p^{r}ſent p'lement by yor high Autorite Aſſembled for the ſeurte of yor moſte high and Royall p^{r}ſone and ye welfar of this yor nobile Reaume and of yor trewe liege peple of the ſame That Will'm de la Pole Duke of Suff. late of Ewelme in the Counte of Oxenford falſly and treyterouſly hath ymagined Compaſſed purpoſid forethought done and cōmytted diu^{r}s high grete heynous and horrible treaſons ayenſt yor moſt Roiale p^{r}ſone youre Corones of yor Raumes of England and Fraunce your Duchiee of Guyan and Normandie and youre holde enheritaunce

The holy Trinity have you in his keeping, and ſend you health and good ſpeed in all your matters touching your right. Written at Norwich, on the Wedneſday next after that ye parted hence.

Yours,

s MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,
Wedneſday,
April , 1448.
26 H. VI.

On the back of this Letter is endorſed "Litʳe tʳmʳo paſche Aº. xxvj." and in a more modern hand "Relief demaunded by the Lady Morley, for the Mannoʳ of Sparham."

LETTER XVII.

To the King our Sovereign Lord,

SHEWETH and piteouſly complaineth your humble true obeiſant Commons of this your noble Realm, in this your preſent Parliament, by your high authority aſſembled for the ſurety of your moſt high and royal Perſon, and the welfare of this your noble Realm, and of the true liege people of the ſame, that William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, late of Ewelm, in the County of Oxford, falſely and traiterouſly hath imagined, compaſſed, purpoſed, forethought, done, and committed, divers high, great, heinous, and horrible treaſons againſt your moſt royal perſon, your Crowns of your realms of England and France, your Duchies of Guyenne and Normandy, and your old

heritaunce of yor Countee of Anjoye and Mayne the eſtate and dignite of y^e ſame And ye onnu'ſall wele and p'ſp'ite of all yor trewe ſ'bgettes of Raunnes and Counte in man^r and forme enſewyng.

Firſt the ſeid Duke ye xx^ti Day of Juy^ll the xxv yere of youre bliſſid regne in youre Citee of london in the p^rich of Sepulcr in the ward of faringdon infra ymagynyng and p'poſing falſly and t'yterouſly to diſtroy yor moſte Roiall p^rſone And this yor ſeid Realme thenne and ther t'yterouſly excited Councelled p'uoked and Comforted the Erle of [1] Donas of Orliaunce Bertrande lord Preſſigny maiſt^r Will'm Cuſinet enemys to you Sou^rayne lord and other yor enemeys ſubgettes and ambaſſiato's to [2] Charles calling hem ſelfe king of Fr'unce your grettys Adu'ſarie and enemey to meve Councell ſter and p'uoke the ſame Charles to come in to this yor Realme to leve reiſe and

This being an authentic Copy of the Articles of Impeachment exhibited againſt the Duke of Suffolk, taken at the time, I thought them too curious not to be laid before the public, though the purport of them may be found in ſeveral of our Hiſtories of that period.

Theſe Articles were exhibited in the beginning of February, 1449-50, when the Duke was committed to the Tower, where his confinement was but ſhort; as, upon the adjournment of the Parliament to meet at Leiceſter in April, he then appeared there in his uſual poſt, as prime Miniſter.

I cannot help taking notice of the words of the laſt ſentence of the firſt charge, "Wheruppon the ſame Duke of Suff' ſith ye tyme of heis areſte hath do [*that is, hath "cauſed*] the ſeid Margarete to be married to heis ſeid Sonne."

From theſe words it plainly appears that the Duke immediately upon his arreſt cauſed the marriage between his Son and the Lady Margaret to be ſolemniſed.

I do not find that any of our Hiſtorians mention this as a matter which actually took effect, but only as a matter which the Duke had in contemplation, the Lady at this time being only eight or nine years old. Moreover had this marriage been then really ſolemnized, it muſt have affected not only the legitimacy of the Duke's children, but alſo the legitimacy of the Lady Margaret's Son, Henry VII. as John, Duke of Suffolk (the perſon here mentioned as her huſband) lived till 1491; and ſhe married Edmund Tudor, Earl of Richmond, and by him had her Son Henry, (afterwards Henry VII.) about 1455.

make

old inheritance of your Counties of Anjou and Maine, the eſtate and dignity of the ſame, and the univerſal weal and proſperity of all your true ſubjects of realms and counties in manner and form enſuing.

Firſt, the ſaid Duke the 20th day of July, the 25th year of your bleſſed reign (1447) in your city of London, in the pariſh of Sepulchre, in the Ward of Faringdon infra, imagining and purpoſing falſely and traiterouſly to deſtroy your moſt royal perſon, and this your ſaid realm, then and there traiterouſly excited, counſelled, provoked, and comforted the Earl of [1] Denas (*Baſtard*) of Orleans, Bertrand, Lord Preſſigny, Maſter William Cuſinet enemies to you ſovereign Lord, and other your enemies, ſubjects and ambaſſadors to [2] Charles, calling himſelf King of France, your greateſt adverſary and enemy, to move, counſel, ſtir, and provoke the ſame Charles to come into this your realm to

[a] The renowned Lady Margaret here mentioned, was the only daughter and heir of John Beaufort, Duke of Somerſet, grandſon of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaſter. She married Edmund Tudor, Earl of Richmond, by whom ſhe was the Mother of our King Henry VII. After the deceaſe of this Earl ſhe was ſucceſſively the Wife of Henry Stafford, younger Son of Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham, and Thomas Stanley, Earl of Derby; after which laſt marriage ſhe engaged herſelf in a vow of celibacy, and ſpent her time in prayer, alms giving, and founding Colleges. She died in 1509, when about 70 years old.

If the Reader wiſh to examine the ſeveral charges here brought forward, he is referred to the Hiſtorians, who treat of the tranſactions of the period above mentioned; I have here produced to him an authentic Copy of the ſeveral Articles upon which, with their aſſiſtance, he will be enabled to form his own opinion.

The Copy in my poſſeſſion is thus endorſed,

"Coūpleyntys ayens the Dewke of Suffolk."

[1] John Baſtard of Orleans, Count of Dunois, a natural Son of Lewis, Duke of Orleans, and natural brother to Charles, was born in 1402; he acquired great renown in the French wars againſt the Engliſh, and died loaded with years, honours, and wealth in 1470.

[2] Charles VII. King of France, was born in 1402, and died in 1461.

make open werr ayenſt yor ſou'ayne lord and alle this yor Reaume w^t a grete puiſſaunce And Arme to diſtroy yor moſt Roiall p'ſone And your trewe ſ'bgettes of the ſame Realme to the entente to make John ſone of ye ſame Duke of this yor ſeid Realme And to depoſe you of your heigh regalie therof the ſame Duke of Suff' hauyng thenne of yor g'unte the ward and mariage of Margarete Doughter and heire to John late the Duke of Som'ſet p'poſing here to marey to heis ſaid ſonne p'ſumīg and p'tendyng her to be nexte enheritable to the Corone of this yor Realme for lak of iſſue of you ſou'ayn lord in Accompliſhement of heis ſeid t'ytours p'poſe and entent Wheroppon the ſame Duke of Suff. ſith ye tyme of heis Areſte hath do the ſeid Margarete to be maried to heis ſeid Sonne.

It'm the ſeid Duke of Suff. being moſt troſtid w^t you and prevyeſt of your Councell of fullong tyme p'penſing y^t yor ſeid grete Enemeye And Adu'ſarie Charles ſchuld Conquerr and gete be power and myght yor ſeid Realme of Fraunce Duchies and Countee the xx^ti Day of January the xvij yer of your regne at Weſtm' in yc ſhir of Midd' And din's othir tymes and places w'in yor ſeid Realme of Engeland falſly t'yterouſly by ſotel menes and ymaginacyons for grete corrupcion of good taking of money and other exceſſyf p'miſes to him made by Charles Duke of [3] Orliaunce your enemye coūcelled and ſtered of hym ſelfe only yor heighneſſe to enlarge and deliue' out of p'ſon the ſame Duke of Orliaunce enemye to you ſou'en lord And to ye moſt

[3] Charles, Duke of Orleans and Milan, born in 1391, was taken priſoner at the battle of Agincourt, in 1415, and continued in England as ſuch till 1440, when he was releaſed; he died in 1465.

victorious

levy, raiſe, and make open war againſt you ſovereign Lord, and all this your realm with a great puiſſance and army to deſtroy your moſt royal perſon, and your true ſubjects of the ſame realm to the intent to make John ſon of the ſame Duke *(King)* of this your ſaid realm, and to depoſe you of your high regality thereof, the ſame Duke of Suffolk having then of your grant the ward and marriage of Margaret, Daughter and heir to John, late the Duke of Somerſet, purpoſing her to marry to his ſaid ſon, preſuming and pretending her to be next enheritable to the crown of this your realm, for lack of iſſue of you ſovereign Lord, in accompliſhment of his ſaid traitor's purpoſe and intent, whereupon the ſame Duke of Suffolk ſith the time of his arreſt hath do [*cauſed*] the ſaid Margaret to be married to his ſaid ſon.

Item, the ſaid Duke of Suffolk being moſt truſted with you, and privieſt of your counſel of full long time prepenſing [*premeditating*] that your ſaid great enemy and adverſary Charles ſhould conquer and get by power and might your ſaid realm of France, Duchies, and Counties the 20th day of January, the 17th year of your reign (1438) at Weſtminſter, in the ſhire of Middleſex, and divers other times and places within your ſaid realm of England, falſely, traiterouſly, by ſubtle means and imaginations, for great corruption of good, taking of money, and other exceſſive promiſes to him made by Charles, Duke of Orleans your enemy, counſelled and ſteered of himſelf only, your highneſs to enlarge and deliver out of priſon the ſame Duke of Orleans, enemy to you ſovereign Lord, and to the

victorious noble prince of blyſſid memory the king youre fadir whom god aſſoile takyn be hem p'fonere to thentent y^t ye ſeid Charles Calling hym ſelf King of Fr'unce ſchuld recoue' gete and haue be falſe Conqueſte and other deſayvabile menes ayenſt you yor heirz And ſucceſſo's yor ſeid Realme of Fr'unce Duches and Counte be the wyle ſubtill Councell might and ayde of the ſeid Duke of Orliaunce Notw^tſtanding that be ye late wylle and ordinaunce of yor ſeid fadir for diu's thingis moveyng his grete wyſdome contrary ther of was avyſed and declared by wiche Councell and ſtering only of ye ſeid Duke of Suff. y^e ſeid Duke of Orliaunce was ſoberd at his liberte to dep'te of of this youre Realme to the p'tee of Fr'unce afore wich dep'ter the firſt day of May ye ſeid xvij yerr of yor regne at london in ye parich of Sent Martyne in ye Ward of Farindon infra y^e ſame Duke of Suff. trayterouſly adherent to y^e ſeid Charles calling hym ſelfe kyng of Fr'unce then and ther falſly and t'yterouſly counſeild coumforted ſtered and p'uoked ye ſeid Duke of Orlyaunce to excite and moeve y^e ſame Charles calling hym ſelfe Kyng of Fr'unce yor grete enemeye And adu'ſarie to make and Reyſe open Werr ayenſt you in yor ſeid Realme of Fr'unce And Duchie of Normandy to Conquer And to opteyn falſly be force myght and other menes ayenſt you your heiriz and ſucceſſo's yor ſeid Realme of Fr'unce and Duche of Normandy vppon wich Adherence Councell and Counfort of ye ſeid Duke of Suff. ye ſeid Charles calling hym ſelfe Kyng hath made open werr a yenſt you in your ſeid Realme of Fr'unce and hath it atrochid vnto hym And ye moſt p'ty of yor Duchie of Normandy

And

moſt victorious noble Prince of bleſſed memory, the King your father, whom God aſſoil! taken by him priſoner, to the intent that the ſaid Charles, calling himſelf King of France, ſhould recover, get, and have by falſe conqueſt, and other deceivable means againſt you, your heirs and ſucceſſors, your ſaid realm of France, Duchies and Counties by the wile, ſubtle counſel, might, and aid, of the ſaid Duke of Orleans.

Notwithſtanding that by the laſt will and ordinance of your ſaid father, for divers things moving his great wiſdom, contrary thereof was adviſed and declared, by which counſel and ſteering only of the ſaid Duke of Suffolk, the ſaid Duke of Orleans was ſoverd [*ſuffered*] at his liberty to depart of of this your realm to the parts of France.

Afore which departure the 1ſt day of May, the ſaid 17th year of your reign (1439) at London, in the pariſh of St. Martin, in the Ward of Faringdon infra, the ſame Duke of Suffolk traiterouſly adherent to the ſaid Charles, calling himſelf King of France, then and there falſely and traiterouſly counſelled, comforted, ſteered, and provoked the ſaid Duke of Orleans to excite and move the ſame Charles, calling himſelf King of France, your great enemy and adverſary, to make and raiſe open war againſt you in your ſaid realm of France, and Duchy of Normandy, to conquer and to obtain falſely by force, might, and other means againſt you, your heirs and ſucceſſors, your ſaid realm of France, and Duchy of Normandy, upon which adherence, counſel and convort [*q. comfort*] of the ſaid Duke of Suffolk, the ſaid Charles, calling himſelf King, hath made open war againſt you.

And takyn p'ſony's ye ful nobile lordys and Coragyouſe Knytys ye Erle of [4] Schrouesbery and ye lord [5] Faconberge w^t many othir Nobles and people of yor trewe leiges to ther likly fynall ondoing your greteſt diſheritaunce and ou^r grete lamentable loſſe that euer comē a for this to you or ony of yor ful Noble p'genito's or to your trewe ſubgettes.

It'm wher the ſeid Duke of Suff. late was on of yor Ambaſſito's w^t othir to youre ſeid Adu'ſarie Charles calling hem ſelf Kyng of Fr'unce he above heis inſtruccion and power to hym be you cōmittyng p'miſed to [6] Reyner King of Ceſile And Charles [7] Daungers heis brothir your grete enemeys ye deliu'aunce of Maunce And Mayne w'out ye aſſent andvyſe or knowyng of other your ſeid Ambaſſito's w^t hym thenne accompanyd And theroppon after heis comyng in to this Realme from the ſame Ambaſſiate in p'formīg of heis ſeid p'myſe he falſly and t'yterouſly for grette rewardes and lucre of good to hym yeuen by yor enemes cauſed the ſeid Reyner and Charles Daungers to haue deliu'aunce of Maunce and Mayne aforeſeid to yor ou^r grete diſheritaunce and loſſe irrep'able enforſing and enrychyng of your ſeid enemes and gretteſt mene of the loſſe of yor ſeid Duche of Normandye and ſo was y^e ſeid Duke of Suff. falſly and t'yterouſly adherent aidant and Confortant to yor grete enemeys and adu'ſaries.

It'm

[4] John, Lord Talbot, our famous general in the French wars, was created Earl of Shrewſbury in 1442. He was a priſoner in France from 1428 to 1432, and ſlain at Chaſtillion in 1453, when above 80 years old.

[5] William Neville was created Lord Falconberg, in 1429. He commanded the Van at

you in your ſaid realm of France, and it hath attroched [*attracted*] unto him, and the moſt part of your Duchy of Normandy, and taken priſoners the full noble Lords and courageous Knights, the Earl of [4] Shrewſbury, and the Lord [5] Falconberg with many other nobles and people of your true lieges, to their likely final undoing, your greateſt diſheritance, and our great lamentable loſs that ever come afore this to you, or any of your full noble progenitors, or to your true ſubjects.

Item, where(*as*) the ſaid Duke of Suffolk late was one of your Ambaſſadors with others to your ſaid adverſary Charles, calling himſelf King of France, he above his inſtruction and power to him by you commirting, promiſed to [6] Reyner, King of Sicily, and Charles [7] D'aungers his brother, your great enemies, the deliverance of Maunce and Mayne, without the aſſent and advice or knowing of others your ſaid Ambaſſadors with him then accompanied, and thereupon after his coming into this realm from the ſame Ambaſſiate, in performing of his ſaid promiſe, he falſely and traiterouſly, for great rewards and lucre of good to him given by your enemies, cauſed the ſaid Reyner and Charles D'aungers to have deliverance of Maunce and Mayne aforeſaid, to your over great diſheritance and loſs irreparable, enforcing and enriching of your ſaid enemies, and greateſt mean of the loſs of your ſaid Duchy of Normandy; and ſo was the ſaid Duke of Suffolk falſely and traiterouſly adherent, aidant and conſortant to your great enemies and adverſaries.

at the battle of Towton, in 1461, and was ſoon after created Earl of Kent, and died in 1463.

[6] Renatus, Duke of Anjou, &c. Father of the Queen of England, here called King of Sicily or Naples, he died in 1480.

[7] Charles of Anjou, Duke of Maine, was born in 1414, and died in 1472.

It'm the ſeid Duke of Suff. being reteyned w^t you in yor wages of werr in your ſeid Realme of Fr'unche and Duchie of Normandye And therby ſtroſtid be you and alle your councellers to knowe ye p'uite of yor Councell ther And ye p'uiaunce of yor Armes ye defence and keping of yor townes Fortereſſes and places ſieges p'veaunce and ordinaunce of Werr in y^e ſame p'ties for you to be mad knowyng all .. .. p'uite and being adherent to yor ſeid grete enemeye calling hem ſelf kyng of Fr'unce hath eften and many diuers tymes falſly and t'yterouſly diſcouerd and openned to hym and to heis Capytaynes and Conducto^rs of heis Werr your enemes ye p'uite ordinaunce and p'uiſion of yor ſeid Councell p'ueaunces of Armes defence keping townnes fortereſſes places Syeges and ordinaunce werby yor grete adu^r-ſarie and enemeys haue geton and takyn be ye menes of this is treaſon and falſhode ful many lordchepes townnes Caſteles for-teſſes and places w^tin yor ſeid Realme of Fr'unce and Duchie of Normandie and letted yor Capitaynes of yor Werres to con-quer keppe and acheve yor rithfull enheritaunce ther.

It' y^e ſeid Duke of Suff. beyng of yor grete p'uey Councell and w^t you beſt troſtid knowyng the ſecreneſſe therof And of this yor Realme ye xvj day of Juyll ye xxv^ti yerr of yor regne at london in the parich of ſent lau^raunce Pulteney in ye ward of Sandewyke ſtrette and at othir diu's tymes and places falſly and t'yterouſly beyng adherent and ardant to y^e ſeid Charles calling hem ſelfe King of Fr'unce yor grete enemeys ye ſeid xvj day and in ye parich of Sent laurence aforſeid openned declarid and diſcouered to y^e ſeid Erle of Danas Baſtard of Orlyaunce Ber-trand lord p'ſigin Maiſt^r Will'm Coſinet yor enemeys ſ'bgettes

Ambaſſiato^rs

Item, the ſaid Duke of Suffolk being retained with you in your wages of war, in your ſaid realm of France and Duchy of Normandy, and thereby truſted by you and all your counſellors to know the privity of your counſel there, and the purveyance of your armies, the defence and keeping of your towns, fortreſſes, and places, ſieges, purveyance and ordinance of war in the ſame parts for you to be made, knowing all in private, and being adherent to your ſaid great enemy, calling himſelf King of France, hath often and many divers times falſely and traiterouſly diſcovered and opened to him, and to his captains, and conductors of his war, your enemies, the privity, ordinance, and proviſion of your ſaid counſel, purveyances of arms, defence keeping, towns, fortreſſes, places, ſieges, and ordinance, whereby your great adverſary and enemies have gotten and taken by the means of this his treaſon and falſehood full many Lordſhips, towns, caſtles, fortreſſes, and places within your ſaid realm of France, and Duchy of Normandy, and letted your captains of the wars to conquer, keep, and atchieve your rightful inheritance there.

Item, the ſaid Duke of Suffolk being of your great privy Council, and with you beſt truſted, knowing the ſecreneſs [*ſecrecy*] thereof, and of this your realm, the 16th day of July, the 25th year of your reign (1447) at London, in the pariſh of St. Laurence Pulteney, in the ward of Sandwick ſtreet, and at other divers times and places falſely and traiterouſly being adherent and aidant to the ſaid Charles, calling himſelf king of France, your great enemy, the ſaid 16th day, and in the pariſh of St. Laurence aforeſaid, opened, declared, and diſcovered to the ſaid Earl of Danas, Baſtard of Orleans, Bertrand, Lord Preſſigny,

Ambaſſiato'rs and Councellours to y^e ſeid Charles calling hem ſelf king of Fr'unce the p'uitees of your Councell aſwell of this your Realme for ye comyn wele of y^e ſame as for ye gou'nauns and ordinaunce for ye conqueſt conſ'uacion Saufgard tuycyon of your ſeid Realme of Fr'unche and Duchie of Normandy at y^t tyme being in your in handys as be the ſeid Charles calling hem ſelfe kyng of Fr'unce, And armes goton and takyn out of yor handes.

It'm ſuth ye mat^r firſt moeved of ye conuencyon of trewes and pees by twenne you and your ſeid grette enemeye Charlys callyng hem ſelfe Kyng of Fr'unche Wheroppon by grete dib'acyon ye by the Advyſe of yor Councell haue ſend many ſolempne Ambaſſato'rs to y^e ſame Charles for ye god of pees to be hadde be twyn you and this yor Realme and yor ſ'biettes in yor Realme of Fr'unche Duchie of Normandye and othir places vnder yor obeyſauns and y^e ſame Charles and heis ſubgettes y^e ſeid Duke of Suff. being next and gretteſt of yor Councell havyng knowlach of ye power and auctorite comytted to alle yor Ambaſſiato'rs ſend in this be half hath deſeyvabely and t'yterouſly by heis lres and meſſages diſcou'ed and opened to yor ſeid grete enemeye Charlys calling hym ſelf Kyng of Fr'unce alle ynſtruccioun and informaciouns yeven to yor ſeid Ambaſſato's afore ye comyng in to Fr'unce werby the effectuale concord and trewes y^t ſchuld haue folowed of ſuche Ambaſſiat by twynne both y^e ſeid Realmes and ſ'bgettes haue take non effectualle concluſyon but by his fals fraudelent traiterous werkes dedes and deceyvable ymagynacyons yor grete enheritaunce ſeygnyouries lordſhippis townes

Maſter William Coſinet, your enemies, ſubjects, ambaſſadors and Counſellors to the ſaid Charles, calling himſelf King of France, the privities of your council, as well of this your realm for the common weal of the ſame, as for the governance and ordinance for the conqueſt, conſervation, ſafeguard, tuition of your ſaid realm of France and Duchy of Normandy, at that time being in your hands, as by the ſaid Charles, calling himſelf King of France, and armies gotten and taken out of your hands.

Item, ſith the matter firſt moved of the convention of truce and peace between you and your ſaid great enemy Charles, calling himſelf King of France, whereupon by great deliberation ye by the advice of your council have ſent many ſolemn Ambaſſates to the ſame Charles for the good of peace to be had between you and this your realm, and your ſubjects in your realm of France, Duchy of Normandy, and other places under your obeiſance, and the ſame Charles and his ſubjects, the ſaid Duke of Suffolk being next and greateſt of your Council, having knowledge of the power and authority committed to all your Ambaſſadors ſent in this behalf, hath deceivably and traiterouſly by his letters and meſſages diſcovered and opened to your ſaid great enemy Charles, calling himſelf King of France, all inſtructions and informations given to your ſaid Ambaſſadors afore the coming into France, whereby the effectual concord and truce, that ſhould have followed of ſuch Ambaſſate between both the ſaid realms and ſubjects, have taken none effectual concluſion, but by his falſe, fraudulent, traiterous works, deeds, and deceivable imaginations, your great inheritances, ſeignories, lord-

Caſtell fortereſſes and poſſeſſions in yor ſeid Realme of Fr'unche and Duchie of Normandye by cauſe of heis falſe meſſages ſendyngs and wrytyngys haue be takyn by reſt and getyn fro you be yor ſeid enemeys Jn proof of ye wich treſon ye ſeid Duke of Suff. fittyng in yor Councell in ye Stere Chambre in yor pales of Weſtm^r ſeid and declarid openly be for ye lordis of yor Councell ther being y^t he had his place in ye Councell hows of ye French Kyng as he had ther and was ther as wel ſtroſtid as he was here and couth remeve from y^e ſeid French Kynge ye prevyeſt man of heis Councell yf he wold.

It' whan in this your Roialme ful oftyn tymes p'uicyon hath be mad for diu's Armes to be ſent in to your ſeid Realme of Fr'unche Duches of Normandy And Gyand y^e ſeid Duke of Suff. by ye inſtaunce and meenes mad to hym be yor ſeid enemeys and adu'ſareys for grette outeragyous yeftes and rewardes of them takyn trayterouſly hath reſtrayned and vtt^rly lettyd ye paſſage of ſuch Armees in fauo^r and Supporte of yor ſeid enemeys.

It' y^e ſeid Duke of Suff. as yor Ambaſſato's by twene you and Charles callyng hym ſelf Kyng of Fr'unche in fortefyeng of hem and enchreſing of his myght hath not compriſed in trewes taken in yor p^rty ye Kyng of [8] Arregon yor old Allye and frend nother ye Duke of [9] Breten but ſufferd and cauſid y^e ſeid Duke of Bretayne to be compremyſid of ye p^rty of the ſeid Charles as his ſ'bget frende and allye wherby ye have ben eſt'unged from

[8] Alphonſo V. King of Aragon, died in 1458, aged 64.

Y^e

ſhips, towns, caſtles, fortreſſes, and poſſeſſions in your ſaid realm of France and Duchy of Normandy, becauſe of his falſe meſſages, ſendings, and writings, have been taken by reſt, and gotten from you by your ſaid enemies.

In proof of the which treaſon the ſaid Duke of Suffolk, ſitting in your council in the Star Chamber in your Palace of Weſtminſter, ſaid and declared openly before the Lords of your council there being, that he had his place in the Council houſe of the French King as he had there, and was there as well truſted as he was here, and could remove from the ſaid French King the privieſt man of his council if he would.

Item, when in this your realm full often times proviſion hath been made for divers armies to be ſent into your ſaid realm of France, Duchies of Normandy and Guyenne, the ſaid Duke of Suffolk, by the inſtance and means made to him by your ſaid enemies and adverſaries for great outrageous gifts and rewards of them taken, traiterouſly hath reſtrained and utterly letted the paſſage of ſuch armies in favour and ſupport of your ſaid enemies.

Item, the ſaid Duke of Suffolk as your Ambaſſador between you and Charles, calling himſelf King of France, in fortifying him and encreaſing of his might, hath not compriſed in truce, taken in your party the King of [8] Arragon, your old Ally and friend, neither the Duke of [9] Bretayne, but ſuffered and cauſed the ſaid Duke of Bretayne to be compremiſed of the party of the ſaid Charles, as his ſubject, friend, and ally, whereby ye

[9] Francis I. Duke of Bretaign, was born in 1414, and died in 1450.

have

ye god leffe and aſſiſtence of y^e^ ſeid King of Arregon and therby and be othir on trewe and falce coniectours of y^e^ ſeid Duke of Suff. y^e^ ſeid Duke of Breteyn is become yor enemeye and ^10^ Gyles of Breten his Brothir ye wiche is and of long tyme hath ben yor trewe and welvylled man and ſ'v'nt put in gret dures of p'con and likely to be potte to ye Dethe or diſtroid for his trewe feith and welle y^t^ he hath to you.

And of alle treſons and offenſys in alle theis ſeid Arteculys ſpecyfied and conteyned we yor ſeid Comens accuſe and empeche y^e^ ſeid Will'm de la Pole Duke of Suff. and pray y^t^ this be enacte in this yor high Courte of p'lement and theroppon to p'cede in this your high Courte of Parlement as ye mat^r^ And caas aforſeid requireth for ye Surete and welfar of yor moſt Roiale p'ſon And ſavacyon of this your Realme, &c.

The above was written on two whole Sheets of paper, each 11 ½ by 17.

Paper Mark, Q? ſome kind of Flower. Pl. xxi. N° 9.

LET-

have been eſtranged from the good love and aſſiſtance of the ſaid King of Arragon, and thereby and by other untrue and falſe conjectures of the ſaid Duke of Suffolk, the ſaid Duke of Bretayne is become your enemy, and [10] Gyles of Bretayne his brother, the which is, and of long time hath been, your true and well willed man and ſervant, put in great dureſs of priſon, and likely to be put to the death or deſtroyed for his true faith and weal that he hath to you.

And of all treaſons and offences in all theſe ſaid articles ſpecified and contained, We your ſaid Commons accuſe and impeach the ſaid William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, and pray that this be enacted in this your High Court of Parliament, and thereupon to proceed in this your High Court of Parliament, as the matter and caſe aforeſaid requireth for the ſurety and welfare of your moſt Royal Perſon, and ſavation [*ſalvation*] of this your Realm.

[10] Egidius or Gyles, his brother, was Lord of Chantore: he died in 1450.

LET-

LETTER XLIII.

To my Sovereyn
John Paſton.

I Recomend me hertily thankyng yow for ye tydings and ye good awyſſe yᵗ ze ſent me be ye pᵉſon of Thorpe latyng zow wittin yᵗ ye byſchope of ye todir ſyde of ye ſee ſent laate to me a man yᵉ qwych wuld abydin uppon my leyſer for to an had me ouyr wyt hym to ye ſeyd byſchope and ſo forth to yᵉ Courte ſo ye ſeyd man and I arryn a poynted yᵗ he ſchal Comyn ageyn a purpoſe fro ye byſchope to be my gyde ouyr yᵉ See and ſo I purpoſe me fully forthe a noon aftir this eſtryn J mak me euyre day fulli redy as pᵘyli as I can be ſekyng zow as I troſt on zow and as I am zour trow bede man as labor for me her yᵗ I mythe haf a wyrte of Paſſagche directid un ſwyche men as zow thyng yᵗ ſchyd beſt yife me my ſchargche ye beſt takyng of ſchepynge is at yernemuthe er Kyrley or ſom othir place in Norfolk ſyde I ſchal haf favour he now wyt ther ſeergiours bod all my goode ſpede and all my wel lythe in you heer for ther on I troſt fully ſom Counſel me to haf a lettʳ of exſchawnge thow it wer bode of xl s er lees bod I comitte all my beſt in this matir to zour wyſdam

It is very difficult to aſcertain the date of this Letter, unleſs we may ſuppoſe it written about 1449, when Walter Lyhart, Biſhop of Norwich, was ſent Embaſſador into Savoy, to induce Felix V. who had been choſen Anti-Pope, to renounce his claim to Nicholas V. for the peace of the Church. This our Biſhop accompliſhed, and it might be at the ſame time that the Prior of Bromholm wiſhed to go to him when abroad, but on what account does not appear. I give this merely as a conjecture, as I do not find that the priory of Bromholm had any connection with any foreign Biſhop.

Robert

LETTER XVIII.

To my ſovereign John Paſton.

I Recommend me heartily, thanking you for the tidings, and the good advice that ye ſent me by the parſon of Thorpe, letting you weet that the Biſhop of the other ſide of the Sea, ſent lately to me a man, the which would abide upon my leiſure, for to have had me over with him to the ſaid Biſhop, and ſo forth to the Court; ſo the ſaid man and I are appointed that he ſhall come again, on purpoſe from the Biſhop, to be my guide over the ſea, and ſo I purpoſe me fully forth anon after this Eaſter; I make me every day full ready as privily as I can, beſeeching you, as I truſt on you, and as I am your true beadſman as [*to*] labour for me here that I might have a writ of paſſage directed unto ſuch men as you think that ſhould beſt give me my charge.

The beſt taking of ſhipping is at Yarmouth or Kyrley, or ſome other place in Norfolk ſide. I ſhall have favour enough with their Seergiours [*Searchers q?*], but all my good ſpeed and all my weal lyeth in you here, for thereon I truſt fully.

Some counſel me to have a Letter of Exchange, though it were but of forty Shillings or leſs, but I commit all my beſt [*beheſt q?*]

Robert was Prior of Bromholm, from about 1435 to about 1460, when he was ſucceeded by John Titleſhale.

This priory became famous for a Holy Croſs, made (as it was ſaid) of part of the Croſs on which our Saviour was crucified.

The Houſe was diſſolved in 1539, and ſold by the Crown to Sir Thomas Wodehouſe; it was afterwards in the families of Berney and Branthwaite. It then became the Eſtate of John Norris, Eſq. and by him was ſettled upon the Univerſity of Cambridge, as a ſtipend for a Profeſſor.

Autograph. Pl. XVIII. N° 5.

wyſdam and qwat at euyr ze pay in this matir I ſchal truly at owr metyng repay ageyn to zow bod for godds love purvey for my ſped her for ell J lees all my purvyans and ther too J ſchyd jaape ye byſchope man and caus hym to com in to yng-land and lees all his labor for goddis loue ſend me down this wyrte er ell bryng it wyt zow y^t^ I mythe haf fro zow a lett^r^ of tydings and Comforthe for I had neuyr verray need of zour labor til now bod my hert hangithe in gret langor all my brethir wenyth y^t^ I ſchy^d^ no forthir goo than to ye byſchope and undir y^t^ colour ſchal I weel go forthe to ye Courte I haf gret ſtody til I haf tydings fro zow Avy^r^ mor all mythi good haf zow in kepyng bodi and ſoule Writtin in haſt ye Wedneſday in ye fyrſt week of clen Lenton.

Your Orator,

Robt. P. of B.

I ſent zow a lett^r^ bod I hade non anſwer ageyn

11 ½ by 7 ¾.

in this matter to your wiſdom, and whatever ye pay in this matter, I ſhall truly at our meeting repay again to you, but for God's love purvey for my ſpeed here, for elſe I loſe all my purveyance, and thereto I ſhould jape [*deceive*] the Biſhop's man, and cauſe him to come into England and loſe all his labour; for God's love ſend me down this writ, or elſe bring it with you, that I might have from you a letter of tidings and comfort, for I had never very need of your labour till now, but my heart hangeth in great languor.

All my brethren weneth that I ſhall no farther go than to the Biſhop, and under that colour ſhall I well go forth to the Court, I have great ſtudy till I have tidings from you.

Evermore Almighty Good [*God*] have you in keeping, body and ſoul.

Written in haſte, the Wedneſday in the firſt week of clean Lent.

Your Orator,

ROBERT, Prior of BROMHOLM.

I ſent you a letter, but I had none anſwer again.

Wedneſday,
March ,
About 1449-50. 28 H. VI.

LETTER XIX.

To my right wurchepfull
howſbond John Paſton.

RIGHT wurchepfull howſbond I recomand me to yow p'yng yow to wete that the p'ſon of Oxened told me that Wymdh'm told hym that Sweynnyſthorp is hold of the kyng be the thred p't or the fourt p't of a knyt fye and ho ſo eu' had the man' of Sweynſthorp he ſhuld fynde an armyd man in tyme of Werre in the Caſtell of Norwhic xl days to his owyn Coſt and that ye ſhuld pay xxx^{s} to the kyng yerly owth of the ſeyd man' and it is fond alſo that yo' fad' ſhuld a died ſeyſyd and that y^{e} ſhuld a entyryd ther in as heyr aft' yo' fad' dyſſeys and that y^{e} ſhuld be now up on the age of xxx wynt'.

The Trinite have yow in hys kep$\bar{y}$g, wreten at Norwhic the friday next a fore ſeynt George.

Yowrs,

M. Paſton.

8 ½ by 7 ½.

I have given this Letter as mentioning a tenure by Petit Sergeanty; theſe tenures were aboliſhed by a ſtatute in the reign of Charles II. but the honorary ſervices by Grand Sergeanty are ſtill continued.

LETTER XIX.

To my right worſhipful huſband, John Paſton.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I recommend me to you, praying you to weet that the parſon of Oxnead told me that Wyndham told him that Swainſthorp is held of the King by the third part or the fourth part of a Knight's fee, and whoſoever had the manor of Swainſthorp he ſhould find an armed man, in time of war in the Caſtle of Norwich, forty days to his own coſt, and that ye ſhould pay 30s. to the King yearly out of the ſaid manor, and it is found alſo that your father ſhould have died ſeiſed, and that ye ſhould have entered therein as heir after your father's deceaſe, and that ye ſhould be now upon the age of 30 winters.

The Trinity have you in his keeping; written at Norwich, the Friday next afore Saint George.

Yours,

MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,
Friday, April
About 1450. 28 H. VI.

Seal,
A Fleur de Lys.
Pl. xxiii. N° 7.

This Letter muſt have been written about 1450, as John Paſton was born about 1420.
Swainſthorpe is in the County of Norfolk.
Autograph. Pl. II. N° 20.

LET-

LETTER XX.

To my Right eſpeciall
Maiſtr John Paſton in haſt.

RYGHT worthy worſhipfull Sr and myn eſpeciall maiſtr I recomaund me to yow And p'y yow wete yat I was .. .. yeſterdaye atte my lord [1] Chauncellers hous and y'e I ſpake wt White And he tolde me yat he hadde the lettr yat ye ſewed for from .. .. directed to the lord Moleyns of yat ſubſtance yat ye hadde ſued to hym for an eſpeciall [2] aſſi'e and an [3] oier and detmíner and .. .. yat he ſhuld comaunde his men beyng at Gr to deprte yens and yat ye p'fitez y'of ſhuld be receyved by an endifferent prſon .. .. .. ſaufly to be kepte til yc right were detrmyned be twen yow and my lord M. &c. whiche lettr White ſent forthe .. .. by a man of my lord Chaunceller to yc lord Moleyns And he ſent his anſwer in writyng of yis Subſtance yat it ſhuld not like my lord Chaunceller to g'unte Aſſi'e &c. for als moche as ye lord M. hadde ſore be laboured in his cuntre to peas and ſtille ye [4] poeple there to

After J. Paſton had received this Letter, it ſeems as if he had ſent it to my Lord Oxford, for on the back of it, in J. Paſton's hand-writing, is the following direction.

"To the rith worſpfull and my rith ſpeciall Lord my Lord of Oxenford."

The Eſtates in diſpute between J. Paſton and my Lord Molyns, were at Greſham, in Norfolk, where Sir William Paſton the Judge, had purchaſed the moiety of a Manor, &c. of Thomas Chaucer, Eſq. The other moiety now in diſpute, had been in the poſſeſſion of the anceſtors of Ellenor (now the wife of Robert Hungerford, Lord Molyns,) who was the daughter and heir of Sir William Molyns, Lord Molyns, who was killed at the ſiege of Orleans, in 1428, and had likewiſe come into Sir William's poſſeſſion. The diſputes were carried on for ſeveral years, and how at laſt finally ſettled I know not.

reſtreyngne

LETTER XX.

To my right eſpecial Maſter, John Paſton, in haſte.

RIGHT worthy worſhipful Sir, and mine eſpecial maſter, I recommend me to you, and pray you weet that I was yeſterday at my [1] Lord Chancellor's houſe, and there I ſpake with White, and he told me that he had the letter that ye ſued for from " " directed to the Lord Molyns of that ſubſtance that ye had ſued to him for an eſpecial [2] Aſſiſe and an [3] oyer and determiner, and that he ſhould command his men being at Greſham to depart thence, and that the profits thereof ſhould be received by an indifferent perſon ſafely to be kept till the right were determined between you and my Lord Molyns, &c. which letter White ſent forth by a man of my Lord Chancellor to the Lord Molyns. And he ſent his anſwer in writing of this ſubſtance, that it ſhould not like my Lord Chancellor to grant aſſiſe, &c. for as much as the Lord Molyns had ſore belaboured in his country to peaſe [*appeaſe*] and ſtill the [4] people there to

[1] William de Wainfleet, Biſhop of Wincheſter, he was ſoon after ſucceeded by John Kemp, Archbiſhop of York.

[2] A Writ directed to the Sheriff, for recovery of poſſeſſion of things immoveable, whereof yourſelf or anceſtors have been diſſeiſed.

[3] Is a Commiſſion eſpecially granted to certain perſons for the hearing and determining of cauſes, and was formerly only in uſe upon ſome ſudden outrage or inſurrection in any place.

[4] Theſe diſturbances amongſt the people were the remains of Cade's rebellion, which had been lately ſuppreſſed.

reſtreyngne them from ryſyng and ſo he was dayly laboured y'e abowt in ye kynggs ſ'uyce and yat conſidered he truſtid u'yly yat y'e ſhuld non affi'e be gr'unted to yo' entent And he ſeid forther in his anſwer if he myght attende to be in Norff and leve the neceſſary ſ'uyce yat he dede to ye kyng now in Wyltſhire he wolde be but weel pleaſed yat ye hadde yo' affiſe for he knewe his title and his euydence ſo good for his part yat he durſt weel putte it in my lord Chaunceller and in what iuge he wolde calle to hym. And wher my lord Chaunceller deſired hym to avoyde his men from Gr' he truſtid that my lord wolde not deſire that by cauſe he hadde his poſſeſſion and yat it was his wyffs ryght and ſo hym thought it a geynſt reaſon yat he ſhuld a voide utterly his poſſeſſion. yis ſame moneday goth my lord Chaunceller and my lord of [5] Buk into Kent to ſytte up on an [6] oier and det'myner at Rorcheſtre And Whyte tolde me yat y'e is wretyn an gen'all oier and det'myner to be in Norff And what therfore and for ye lord Moleyns writyng hym ſemyth it is not to yo'. avayll to ſewe for an eſpeciall affi'e ne for an oier and det'myner. Whan I Come hiddirward I mette w't my lord of Norff. betwen Berkewey and Baburgh'm homward And whethir he ſhall Come agayn hiddir or noght I wot not but J trowe rather yes yanne nay. For it is ſeid that alle ye lords be ſent for to be here on Moneday or tuyſday next Comyng for a counſeyll the [7] chief juſtice is not here ne noon oy' iuſtice ex-

[5] Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, fell in the battle of Northampton, in July 1460.

[6] Theſe Commiſſions of Oyer and Determiner were to try thoſe who had been concerned in the late Rebellion under Cade.

cept

reſtrain them from riſing, and ſo he was daily laboured there about in the King's ſervice, and that conſidered, he truſted verily that there ſhould none aſſiſe be granted to your intent; and he ſaid further in his anſwer, if he might attend to be in Norfolk, and leave the neceſſary ſervice that he did to the King now in Wiltſhire, he would be but well pleaſed that you had your aſſiſe, for he knew his title and his evidence ſo good for his part, that he durſt well put it in my Lord Chancellor, and in what Judge he would call to him; and where(*as*) my Lord Chancellor deſired him to avoid his men from Greſham, he truſted that my Lord would not deſire that, becauſe he had his poſſeſſion, and that it was his wife's right, and ſo him thought it againſt reaſon that he ſhould avoid utterly his poſſeſſion.

This ſame Monday goeth my Lord Chancellor and my Lord of [5] Buckingham into Kent, to ſet upon an [6] oyer and determiner at Rocheſter, and White told me that there is written a general oyer and determiner to be in Norfolk; and what therefore, and for the Lord Molyns writing, him ſeemeth it is not to your avail to ſue for an eſpecial aſſiſe nor for an oyer and determiner.

When I came hitherward I met with my Lord of Norfolk, between Barkway and Baberham homeward, and whether he ſhall come again hither or not I wot not, but I trow rather yes than nay, for it is ſaid that all the Lords be ſent for to be here on Monday or Tueſday next coming for a council.

The [7] Chief Juſtice is not here, nor none other Juſtice, ex-

[7] John Hody was at this time Chief Juſtice of the King's Bench.

cept [8] Danvers is now made iuge of ye Co'e place and is forth into Kent w^t^ ye lords, &c. Al yis tofore was wretyn on ye Moneday next aft^r^ our lady day. And yis ſame Wedneſſeday was it told that [9] Shirburgh is goon and we have not now a foote of londe in Normandie and men arn ferd yat [10] Caleſe wole be beſeged haſtily, &c. Pynchamour ſhall telle yow by mowche more yanne I have leyſer to write now to yow. I wrot to myn [11] Em' yat y'e were ix or x m^l^ men up in Wiltſhire and J hadde it of ye report of Whittocks mede but I trowe it is not ſo for here is now littel ſpeche y'of ner the leſſe if I here more I ſhall ſend yow worde her after by ſum loders yat Come to ſeynt Bertilmews fayre Wretyn in haſt at london ye Wedneſſeday next aft^r^ our lady day, &c.

Yo^r^ own ſymple S^r^vūt,

[12] James Gr.

12 by 9 ½.

[8] Robert Danvers became a Judge of the Common Pleas 14th of Auguſt, 1450.

[9] Cherburg is a port-town in France, in the province of Normandy, and ſituated on a bay in the Engliſh Channel, oppoſite to Hampſhire. The French are at this very time (1788) erecting conſiderable works, and forming an extenſive harbour at this place.

cept [8] Danvers, (*who*) is now made Judge of the Common Pleas, and is forth into Kent with the Lords, &c.

All this tofore was written on the Monday next after our Lady-day (*17th of Auguſt*), and this ſame Wedneſday was it told that [9] Cherburg is gone, and we have not now a foot of land in Normandy, and men are afraid that [10] Calais will be beſieged haſtily, &c. Pynchamore ſhall tell you by mouth more than I have leiſure to write now to you. I wrote to mine [11] Em. that there were nine or ten thouſand men up in Wiltſhire, and I had it of the report of Whittock's mede, [*q? maid*] but I trow it is not ſo, for here is now little ſpeech thereof, nevertheleſs if I hear more I ſhall ſend you word hereafter by ſome Loaders [*Carriers*] that come to Saint Bartholomew's fair.

Written in haſte at London, the Wedneſday next after our Lady-day, &c. (*the Aſſumption, 15th Auguſt*).

Your own ſimple Servant,

[12] JAMES GRESHAM.

London,
Wedneſday
19th of Auguſt, 1450.
28 H. VI.

[10] Calais, the capital of the re-conquered Country in the province of Picardy, in France, was taken by the Engliſh in 1347, during the reign of Edward III. and loſt by them in the reign of Q. Mary, in 1557.

[11] Quere this abbreviated word.

[12] Autograph. Pl. III. N° 28.

LETTER XXJ.

To my Ryght truſty
Freende Sr Thomas
Howys prſon of Caſtellco'be
beyng at Caſtr and Willia
Barker in haſte at Caſtr
yn by Jermuth.

RYGHT truſty and welbelovyd freende I grete you well, and as for Hygh'm place to be ſold as ye avyſen me to bye it at the ſome of C Mark or wythynne And reſ've yn the ſaid paym't myne oune dewtee and pay the remenant in wolle to the ſaid Hygh'm credytes as yor lre makyth mencon. I hafe undreſtand that Willia Jenney ſhall be her thys wek And I ſhall veele hym how neere it may be ſold, for yff the wydow wolle ſylle it aftr xiiij yeer or xv yeere that it may be leten, ſendyth me utterly word for I wolle not melle of it ellys thus avyſed And ſende ye me word how mech more yn value yn a ſtoon ſhall I ſyle my wolle And how anothyr chapman wole gefe me for the place when I hafe bought it but aftr xiiij yeer I wold by the place.

Wretyn at London the xv day of October Ao xxix R. R. H. VI.

J. Faſtolf.

3 by 12.
Paper Mark,
A Pair of Sheers.
Pl. xxi. No 5.

I have given this Letter, as it informs us of the price and value of land at this period. Fourteen years purchaſe ſeems high, ſince it does not appear that Sir John bought it for its convenience, as he mentions ſelling it again. By calling it "Heigham's Place" I ſuppoſe there was a houſe as well as land.

LET.

LETTER XXI.

To my right truſty Friend Sir Thomas Howys, parſon of Caſtlecombe, being at Caiſter, and William Barker in haſte, at Caiſter Inn, by Yarmouth.

RIGHT truſty and wellbeloved friend I greet you well, and as for Heigham's place to be ſold, as ye adviſe me to buy it at the ſum of an hundred marks (66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) or within, and reſerve in the ſaid payment mine own duty, and pay the remanent in wool to the ſaid Heigham's creditors as your letter maketh mention; I have underſtood that William Jenney ſhall be here this week, and I ſhall veele [*feel*] him how near it may be ſold; for if the widow will ſell it after fourteen year or fifteen year, that it may be lett, ſend me utterly word, for I will not melle [*meddle*] of it elſe thus adviſed; and ſend ye me word how much more in value in a ſtone ſhall I ſell my wool, and how another chapman will give me for the place, when I have bought it; but after fourteen year I will buy the place.

Written at London, the 15th day of October, in the 29th year of King Henry VI.

JOHN FASTOLF.

London,
Thurſday 15th of October,
1450. 29 H. VI.

In 1470, twenty years after this time, the Reward offered for apprehending the Duke of Clarence was 1000*l.* in money, or 100*l.* a year in land. This ſeems to fix land at that period at only ten years purchaſe; perhaps the preceding civil wars had cauſed this abatement in its value.

Autograph. Pl. II. N° 15.

LET-

LETTER XXJJ.

To my worſhipfull maiſtr
Paſton at Norwich in haſte
be yis delyuered.

PLEASE it yow to wete yat I come to london ye Wedneſſeday at evyn late next aftr my deptyng from yow and it was tolde me yat my maiſtr Calthorp hadde writyng fro my lord of York to awayte on hym at his comyng in to Norff' to be oon of his men And yat no gentilman of Norff' had writyng to awayte on hym but he And ſum folke wene yt it is to yentent yat he ſhuld be outhir Shiref or knyght of ye Shire to ye fortheryng of othir folks &c. the Kyng is remevid from Weſtmr ſumme men ſey to [1] Fyſshwick and ſumē ſey to Briſtowe And it is ſeid yat he hath do wretyn to alle his men yat be in ye [2] chekroll to awayte on hym atte prlemt in yeir beſt Aray. Why no man can telle [3] Heydon was wt my maiſtr Yelverton and deſired

Though there is not even the month in which this Letter was written, I ſhould have had very little heſitation as to fixing the date of it to the year 1450, did not our Hiſtorians tell us that the Duke of York was in that year in Ireland, from whence he did not return till 1451.

The following Letter however ſtill fixes me to the date of 1450, as "die Mercurij in feſto Sancti Martini," muſt be Wedneſday 11th of November, 1450, in which year the Parliament met on the 6th of November, and I can find no other Parliament aſſembled in November, till 1459, when it met at Coventry.

If we ſuppoſe the Feaſt of St. Martin to be that of Martin the Confeſſor and Pope, on the 10th of November, the day will then do for Wedneſday the 10th of that Month, in 1451, but then there was no Parliament ſummoned at that time of the year.

This Letter ſeems written previouſly to that which I have placed next it, and I believe it was written about the month of October.

We are plainly informed of the unſettled ſtate of the Government at the time this Letter

LETTER XXII.

To my worſhipful Maſter Paſton, at Norwich, in haſte be this delivered.

PLEASE it you to weet, that I came to London the Wedneſday at even late, next after my departing from you, and it was told me that my Maſter Calthorpe had writing from my Lord of York to await on him at his coming into Norfolk to be one of his men, and that no Gentleman of Norfolk had writing to await on him but he, and ſome folk ween that it is to the intent that he ſhould be either Sheriff or Knight of the Shire, to the furthering of other folks, &c.

The King is removed from Weſtminſter, ſome men ſay to [1] Fiſhwick, and ſome ſay to Briſtol, and it is ſaid that he hath do [*cauſed to be*] written to all his men that be in the [2] Checkroll to await on him at Parliament in their beſt array; why, no man can tell. [3] Heydon was with my Maſter Yelverton, and deſired

Letter was written, which exactly correſponds with the diſcontent which prevailed amongſt the people in general after Cade's Rebellion, and in the latter part of the year 1450. The Duke of York's Plans too appear to be coming forward; and the hopes which Heydon had of the World's becoming better to his intents than it then was, hints to his intereſt in the appointment of a Sheriff.

[1] Fiſhwick is in Lancaſhire, and Briſtol in Somerſetſhire, theſe place were therefore very far diſtant from each other.

[2] The Check-Roll is a Roll or Book, containing the names of ſuch perſons as are attendants, and in pay to the King, or other great men, as their houſehold Servants, &c.

[3] John Heydon, of Baconſthorpe, Eſq. was a Lawyer, and in 1431 Recorder of Norwich, but being diſplaced in 1433, was ſucceeded by William Yelverton; he married Ellenor, Daughter of Edmund Winter, of Town Barningham, Eſq. whom he appears to have treated very unkindly. He died in 1480.

He appears to have been a very litigious man, and probably had made ſome forceable entry and illegal diſtreſs on Plumſted's goods, &c. for which he was indicted.

deſired hym to ſee ye recordes of his endytementz and axed of hym if he were indited of felonye and my maiſtr Yelvrton told hym it was and y'to H. ſeide Sr ye wole recorde yt I was nevr thef and he ſeid he trowed right weel that he cowde telle why he took Plumpſteds goods and othir words whiche were long to write And my maiſtr Y. ſeid to hym he cowde not knowe ye laborer of yendytement and H. ſeid ageyn he knewe weel ye laborer y'of And my maiſtr Y. conceyte is H. ment yow. Wherfor he Aduyſeth yow yat in onywyſe ye make Plumpſted to take Apell accordyng for if he ſo do yanne is H. barred of his conſpirace and alſo of his damages though yat he be nonnſewed y'in or though it be aftrward diſcontynued &c. And ellis Ar ye in ioparde of A Conſpirace for H. hopeth to haue ye World bettr to his entent yanne it is nowe for it is told me yat rather yanne he ſhuld fayle of A Shiref yis yeer comyng for his entent he wole ſpend ml li. yis co'icacon be twene yem was on Moneday laſt paſſed And on tewiſday laſt paſſed H. mette wt maiſtr [4] Markh'm and he tolde H. his part how that he levid ungoodly in puttyng awey of his wyff and kept An oyr &c. and y'with he trned pale color and ſeid he lyved not but As god was pleaſed wt ne dede no wrong to no prſon and y'upon Maiſtr M. reherced how he demened hym A geynſt men of Court and named yow and Genneye and H. ſeid As touchyng ye peple yat rifled yow and ye doyng y'of he was not p'vy y'to for he was yat tyme here at london And as touchyng ye Lord Moleyns

[4] John Markham was appointed King's Serjeant, in 1444, and in 1462 became Chief Juſtice of the King's Bench.

title

him to ſee the Records of his indictments; and aſked of him if he were indicted of felony; and my Maſter Yelverton told him it was; and thereto Heydon ſaid, "Sir, ye will record that I was never (*a*) thief;" and he ſaid, he trowed [*truſted*] right well that he could tell why he took Plumſted's Goods, and other words which were long to write. And my Maſter Yelverton ſaid to him, he could not know the labourer of the indictment, and Heydon ſaid again, he knew well the labourer thereof; and my Maſter Yelverton's conceit is, Heydon meant you; wherefore he adviſeth you, that in any wiſe ye make Plumſted to take appeal accordingly, for if he ſo do, then is Heydon barred of his conſpiracy, and alſo of his damages, though that he be nonſuited therein, and though it be afterwards diſcontinued, &c. and elſe are ye in jeopardy of a conſpiracy, for Heydon hopeth to have the world better to his intent than it is now; for it is told me, that rather than he ſhould fail of a Sheriff this year coming, for his intent, he will ſpend a thouſand pounds; this communication between them was on Monday laſt paſſed, and on Tueſday laſt paſſed, Heydon met with Maſter + Markham, and he told Heydon his part, how that he lived ungoodly in putting away of his wife, and kept another, &c. and therewith he turned pale colour, and ſaid he lived not but as God was pleaſed with, nor did no wrong to no perſon; and thereupon Maſter Markham reherted [*rehearſed*] how he demeaned him againſt men of Court, and named you and Jenney; and Heydon ſaid, as touching the people that rifled you, and the doing thereof, he was not privy thereto, for he was (*at*) that time here at London; and as touching the Lord Molyns's title,

title H. enforced gretly and ſeid his title was bett^{r} yanne yo^{rs} Yiſterday was my maiſt^{r} Yelverton at Dyner w^{t} my maiſt^{r} Faſtolf and y'e Among oy^{r} thei were Auyſed that my maiſt^{r} F. ſhall write to my lord of Norff' yat he certifie ye kyng and his counſeill how ye Cuntre of N. & S. ſtonde right Wildely w^{t}owt A mene may be that juſtice be hadde Whiche wole not be but if A man of gret byrthe and lyflod there be Shiref yes yer comyng to lede ye peple in moſt peas and y'to thei named Maiſt^{r} [5] Stapilton if it wole happe &c. Alſo yat my lord Norff' ſhall certifie the Kyng and his Counſeill yat but if ye day of ye Oyer and t^{r}myner ſtonde it wole be full harde by cauſe ye peple is ſo Wylde Alſo yat alle Knyghtes and Eſcuyers of ye ſame cuntre ſhuld certifie ye ſame For ſum$\bar{e}$ of H. part haue booſted yat all .. .. at Norwich ſhuld not be worth An [6] haughe J$\bar{o}$ &c. It'm prentiſe is now in ye mydle Jnne and Dynne .. .. Almyghty God have yow in his kepyng Wretyn the Thurſday next aft^{r} my dep^{r}tyng .. .. .

Yo^{r}

[7] J. Greſham.

12 by 10 ¾.

Paper Mark,
Cap, and Fleur de Lys.
Pl. VIII. N° 4.

[5] The Stapyltons were an ancient and knightly family, of large poſſeſſions, reſiding at Ingham, in Norfolk; a co-heireſs of this family married Sir William Calthorpe, by whom the Ingham Eſtate came to him.

[6] Haw, is the berry of the white thorn, and the Saxon word for it is Hazan, from this it was probably called Haugh John, a fruit of no value.

LET.

Heydon enforced greatly, and ſaid his title was better than yours.

Yeſterday was my Maſter Yelverton at dinner with my Maſter Faſtolf, and there among other they were adviſed, that my Maſter Faſtolf ſhall write to my Lord of Norfolk, that he certify the King and his Council how the Country of Norfolk and Suffolk ſtand right wildly, without a mean may be that juſtice be had, which will not be, but if [*unleſs*] a man of great birth and livelihood there be Sheriff this year coming, to lead the people in moſt peace, and thereto they named Maſter [5] Stapilton, if it will hap, &c. Alſo that my Lord (*of*) Norfolk ſhall certify the King and his council that, but if the day of the oyer and terminer ſtand, it will be full hard, becauſe the people is ſo wild.

Alſo that all Knights and Eſquires of the ſame country ſhould certify the ſame, for ſome of Heydon's part have boaſted that all thoſe that were at Norwich ſhould not be worth an [6] haugh John, &c.

Item, Prentice is now in the Middle Inn, and Dynne .. .. Almighty God have you in his keeping.

Written the Thurſday next, after my departing.

Yours,

[7] JAMES GRESHAM.

London,
Thurſday,
About October 1450. 29 H. VI.

7 Autograph. Pl. III. N° 28.

LETTER XXIII.

To my Worſhipfull and good
m'ſtr John Paſton Eſcuyer.

PLEASE it yow to wete yat Sr. W. Oldhall is choſyn ſpeker of ye p'lement and [1] admytted by the kyng &c. It'm ye day of oier and t'mynr ſhall holde at Norwich on Moneday next comyng and by yat cauſe my lord of [2] Oxenford ſhall be diſ-ported of his comyng to ye p'lement for to attende to ye ſeſſions of oier &c. It'm ye lord [3] Moleyns hadde langage of yow in ye kynggs p'ſence as my maiſtr [4] Yelv'ton can telle yow by mouthe. yor p'ſence ſhuld have do meche eaſe here in yor own matiers and oyr as yor weel willers thynkyn and yo' abſence do non eaſe here netheles my maiſtr Yelv'ton ſhall telle you all, &c. It is ſeid here yat ye duke of [5] York and ye Duke of [6] Norff' ſhulln not come here yis vii nyght. It'm it is ſup-poſed yat An oier and det'mynr ſhall come haſtily into Norwich. William Dynne Abydeth yerfore. As touchyng Shirefs y'arn

This Letter is ſubſcribed J. D. and Gr. which I believe are the ſignature of John Damme and James Greſham.

The former was Recorder of the City of Norwich, and at this Parliament their Repre-ſentative; the latter was an eminent Lawyer, and great grandfather to that public ſpirited citizen Sir Thomas Greſham, knight.

[1] We here find that at this time the Member who was elected Speaker of the Houſe of Commons, was preſented to the King for his approbation.

This is a curious hiſtorical Anecdote. Sir William Oldhall was a Gentleman of con-ſiderable property, in the County of Norfolk.—He was ſuppoſed to have been ſomewhat concerned in Cade's Rebellion. He was Member for Herefordſhire.

none

LETTER XXIII.

To my worſhipful and good Maſter, John Paſton, Eſquire.

PLEASE it you to weet that Sir William Oldhall is choſen Speaker of the Parliament, and [1] admitted by the King, &c.

Item, the day of oyer and terminer ſhall *(be)* holden at Norwich, on Monday next coming, and by that cauſe my Lord of [2] Oxford ſhall be diſported [*diverted*] of his coming to the Parliament for to attend to the Seſſions of oyer and terminer.

Item, the Lord [3] Moleyns had language of you in the King's preſence as my Maſter [4] Yelverton can tell you by mouth. Your preſence ſhould have done much eaſe here in your own matters and others, as your well willers think, and your abſence do none eaſe here; nevertheleſs my Maſter Yelverton ſhall tell you all, &c.

Item, it is ſaid here that the Duke of [5] York, and the Duke of [6] Norfolk ſhall not come here this ſev'night.

Item, it is ſuppoſed that an oyer and determiner ſhall come haſtily into Norwich: William Dynne abideth therefore.

As touching Sheriffs there are none choſen or named, and

[2] John Vere, Earl of Oxford, was beheaded in 1461.

[3] Robert Hungerford, Lord Molyns, was a ſteady Lancaſtrian, and beheaded early in the reign of Edward IV.

[4] Sir William Yelverton, of Rougham, in Norfolk, was called to the degree of a Serjeant in 1440, became a Judge of the King's Bench in 1444, was created a Knight of the Bath in 1460, and was alive in 1471.

[5] Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, ſeems at this time to have been in favour, and to have had ſome management in public affairs.

[6] John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, died in 1461.

none choſyn ne named And as men ſuppoſe non ſhall be choſyn til my lord of Yorks comyng, &c. Wretyn in haſt at Weſtm' m'cur in feſto ſ'ci Martini.

You',

[7] I. D. & [8] Gr.

It is apoynted yat who ſhall ſue any bille in ye p'lement yei muſt be put into ye co'e hous by for ſeint Edmunds day atte fertheſt, &c.

11 ½ by 4 ½.

Autographs. [7] Pl. XVII. N° 6. [8] Pl. III. N° 28.

LETTER XXIII.

To my Ryght truſty frende and ſ'unt S' Thom's p'ſon of Caſtellcombe and John Bokkyng at Prynce Inne yn Norwych or at Beklys.

RYGHT truſty and welbelevyd S'unt I grete you well And foraſmoch as I undreſtand that on monday next the oyer and t'miner ſhall be holden at Beklys and ye avyſen to ſende yow a Certificat for cauſe of the forged quyt'unce by S' John Sypton whych wrytyng I ſcende you by the berer here of p'yng you

as men ſuppoſe, none ſhall be choſen till my Lord of York's coming, &c. Written in haſte at Weſtminſter (*die*) Mercurij in feſto Sancti Martini.

Yours,

[7] JOHN DAMME, and [8] GRESHAM.

It is appointed that who(*ever*) ſhall ſue any bill in the parliament they muſt be put into the Commons houſe before Saint Edmund's day (20*th of November*) at fartheſt, &c.

Weſtminſter,
Wedneſday, 11th of November, 1450. 29 H. VI.

The Seſſions of Oyer and Terminer here mentioned were to try thoſe who had been concerned in Cade's Rebellion.

LETTER XXIV.

To my right truſty Friend and Servant, Sir Thomas (Howys) *parſon of Caſtlecombe, and John Bocking, at Prince's Inn, in Norwich, or at Beccles.*

RIGHT truſty and well beloved ſervant, I greet you well, and foraſmuch as I underſtand that on Monday next the oyer and terminer ſhall be holden at Beccles, and ye adviſe to ſend you a certificate for cauſe of the forged quittance by Sir John Sypton, which writing I ſend you by the bearer hereof,

you that ye ſolicit to my Councell that the ſaid Sr John Sypton be endited thereuppon. and that ye foryete not Ulueſton Andreus and the othyrs that forged a fals office to caſt my maner of Bradwell yn to the Kyngs hand.

It' I ſende you a cop' of Sibieton ple and quyt'unce forged to grounde your bille by it. No more for haſte but god kepe you Wryt at london iiij day of December Aº xxixº RR H vj.

It'm Sr John Bukk prſon of Stratford phyſshed my ſtankys at Dedh'm and holp brake my damme deſtroyed my new mille and was ayenſt me allwey at Dedh'm to the damage of 20*l.* which may be endyted allſo. It'm he and John Cole hath by force this yeer and othyr yeers take out off my waters at Dedh'm to the nōbre of xxiiij Swannys and Signetts and I pray you thys be not foryeted.

J. Faſtolf.

3 by 12.

Paper Mark,
A Pairs of Sheers.
Pl. xxi. Nº 5.

I have preſented this Letter to the Reader, to ſhew him that the forging of Deeds, Grants, &c. was a common offence many centuries ago; here it mentions an acquittance as being forged, and likewiſe an office forgery, which would affect Sir John's manor of Bradwell.

LET-

praying you that ye ſolicit to my counſel that the ſaid Sir John Sypton be endicted thereupon, and that ye forget not Ulveſton, Andrews, and the others that forged a falſe office to caſt my manor of Bradwell into the King's hand.

Item, I ſend you a Copy of Sypton's plea and quittance forged to ground your bill by it.

No more for haſte, but God keep you, written at London, the 4th day of December, in the 29th year of King Henry VI.

Item, Sir John Buck, parſon of Stratford, fiſhed my ſtanks at Dedham, and helped to break my dam, deſtroyed my new mill, and was againſt me always at Dedham, to the damage of 20*l.* which may be endicted alſo.

Item, he and John Cole hath by force this year, and other years taken out of my waters at Dedham, to the number of 24 ſwans and cygnets. I pray you this be not forgotten.

JOHN FASTOLF.

London,
Friday, 4th of December,
1450. 29 H. VI.

At the time here mentioned, forgery was an offence at common law only, and the puniſhment was uſually fine and impriſonment; it is now an offence by divers ſtatutes, and the Perſon committing it is guilty of felony, without benefit of Clergy.

Autograph. Pl. II. N° 15.

LETTER XXV.

To my Ryght truſty and intierly welbeloved John Jermyn Shirreve of Norff'.

RIGHT truſty and intierly welbeloved I grete yow wele and where late by the Kyng's Comaundment in the tyme of his p'lement holden now laſt at Weſtm'. I was in p'ſone at Norwich holdyng Seſſions of oir det'myner w't Yelverton on of the kyngs juges by greet ſpace and greet attendaunce which for to a do w't ſuych diligence in the p'lement tyme I wold a be right lothe but for the pupplyk wele of all the Shire it is alſo not oute of yo'. remenbraunce what indiſpoſioon the Com'ons of bothe Countes in the ende of Somer laſt paſſed wer of And how the kyng by the hole advyſe of all the greet councell of Ingland to ſeſe their Rumo'. ſend hider his ſaid comiſſion and how I have do my part therynne I reporte me to all the World I here a gruggyng nev'theleſſe that trow favo' in yo'. office to the pople that hath compleyned by many and grete horible billes agayn certeyn p'ſones ſhuld not be ſhewid at this next Seſſions at Lenn

This Letter was written by John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, to the High Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, in conſequence of his having been informed that he intended to quaſh certain bills againſt particular perſons, and not ſuffer them to appear at the next Seſſions, &c. This ſentence in the Original Letter is ambiguous from an omiſſion of a word or two, but I think the above is the true meaning of it.

Theſe Commiſſions were ſent out in November 1450, ſoon after the ſuppreſſion of Cade's Rebellion, to try thoſe who were impriſoned in different parts of the Kingdom for the part they had then taken.

The

LETTER XXV.

To my right truſty and entirely well beloved John Jermyn, Sheriff of Norfolk.

RIGHT truſty and entirely well beloved, I greet you well, and where*(as)* late by the King's commandment in the time of his parliament holden now laſt at Weſtminſter, I was in perſon at Norwich, holding Seſſions of Oyer (*and*) Determiner with Yelverton, one of the King's Judges, by great ſpace and great attendance, which for to have done with ſuch diligence in the parliament time, I would have been right loath, but for the public weal of all the ſhire.

It is not alſo out of your remembrance what indiſpoſition the Commons of both Counties in the end of Summer laſt paſſed were of, and how the King, by the whole advice of all the great Council of England to ceaſe their rumour, ſent hither his ſaid Commiſſion, and how I have done my part therein, I report me to all the world; I hear a grudging nevertheleſs that through favour in your office to the people that hath complained by many and great horrible bills againſt certain perſons, ſhould not be

The Earl ſeems to expreſs himſelf as friendly to the People, and wiſhes to be a mean of redreſſing their grievances.

He married Elizabeth, ſole daughter and heir of Sir John Howard, Knight, by which marriage he became poſſeſſed of the manor of East Winch, in the County of Norfolk. He was beheaded when about 55 years of age, in 1461.

Autograph. Pl. I. N° 8.

Cade's Rebellion happened in June and July, 1450. 28 H. VI.

John Jermyn, the High Sheriff, was anceſtor to Sir Thomas Jermyn, of Ruſhbrooke, in Suffolk, who was created a Peer by Charles I. in 1643; but this family became extinct in 1708.

Lenn ne ferth'r in the ſaid Comiſſion which if it ſo were as god defend myght cauſe a latt^{r} erro^{r} wurs than the firſt I p'y yow therfore that ye wole write to me yor diſpoſic'on how ye purpoſe to be demened and how j ſhal take yow for th' execuc'on of the kyngs Comiſſion and the pupplik wele of all the ſhire and aftir that that ye write to me ſo wole I take yow latyng yow wete that I were lothe to labo^{r}. ferther but if I wiſt that the Comōns ſhuld be eaſid as godds law wold And if ony erro^{r}. grow the defaute ſhal not be founde in me I p'y yow more ov^{r}. to gif credence to the berer her of And the trinite kepe yow Wretyn at Wynch the ſecond day of January.

The Erle of Oxenford.

11 ½ by 8 ¾.

Paper Mark,
A Croſs and Mound.
Pl. xxi. N° 8.

NUMBER XXXJ.

The Speech of John Mowbray Duke of Norfolk againſt Edmund Beaufort Duke of Somerſet in the Houſe of Lords.

MY lordes ye know well ynough the grete peynes labours and diligences that before thys tyme y have doon to thentent that the ove' greete diſhonneurs and loſſes that ben come to thys full noble Royaume of England by the falſ-

menes

ſhewed at this next Seſſions at Lynn, nor farther in the ſaid Commiſſion, which if it ſo were as God defend [*forbid*], might cauſe a latter error worſe than the firſt.

I pray you therefore that ye would write to me your diſpoſition how ye purpoſe to be demeaned, and how I ſhall take you for the execution of the King's Commiſſion, and the public weal of all the ſhire; and after that that ye write to me, ſo will I take you, letting you weet that I were loath to labour farther but if [*unleſs*] I wiſt that the Commons ſhould be eaſed, as God's Law would, and if any errors grow, the default ſhall not be found in me.

I pray you moreover to give credence to the bearer hereof, and the Trinity keep you. Written at Winch, the 2d day of January.

The EARL of OXFORD.

Winch,
Saturday, 2d January, 1450. 29 H. VI.

NUMBER XXVI.

The Speech of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, againſt Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerſet, in the Houſe of Lords.

MY Lords, ye know well enough the great pains, labours, and diligences, that before this time I have done, to the intent that the over great diſhonours and loſſes that be come to this full noble Realm of England, by the falſe means of ſome perſons

menes of ſom perſones that have take on theym over grete autoritee in thys Royaume ſhulde be knowen. And that the perſones lyvyng that have doon theym ſhulde be corrected aftyr the merites of her deſertes And to that entent y have denounced and delyv'd to you in wrytyng certeyn articles ayenſt the Duc of Som'ſet whych ys one of theym that ys gylty thereoff whertoo the Duc of Som'ſet hath aunſuerd And to that that he hath aunſuerd y have replyed yn ſuch wyſe that y trowe to be ſure ynough that there ſhall no vayllable thyng be ſeyd to the contrarie of my ſeyd replicacon And aſmoch as he woold ſey ſhall be but falſneſſe and leſyngs as be the probacons that ſhall be made thereuppon ſhall mow appiere how be it that to alle people of gode entendement knowyng how Juſtice owyth to be miniſtred. it ys full apparūnt that the denunciac'ons ayenſt hym made ben ſufficiently preved by the dedes that have folowed thereoff Whereuppon y have requyred to have ouv'ture of juſtice by yow whych ye have not yhyt doon to me Whereoff y am ſo hevy

That the Reader may the better underſtand the matters here referred to, it will be neceſſary juſt to mention the leading tranſactions which occaſioned this accuſation.

The Parliament met at Weſtminſter in the latter end of the year 1450, when the Duke of Somerſet returning from France, was ſo publickly cenſured for the loſs of Normandy, that the Commons petitioned the King to ſend him to the Tower; it might be therefore at this time that the Duke of Norfolk made this Speech in the Houſe of Lords; the Duke of Somerſet however was releaſed as ſoon as the Parliament broke up. But as Guienne (which ſtands as part of the charge againſt him here) was not completely loſt before the year 1453, when this Duke was again committed to the Tower, and an accuſation brought againſt him by the Commons before the Lords, it is, I think, moſt probable that it was then that the Duke of Norfolk ſtepped forwards as his accuſer.

The exact time however is immaterial, as the force and energy of the Speech remain the ſame whenever it was ſpoken, and that it was ſpoken is evident, from that ſentence in which he ſays, "Wherfor for to abbregge my langage, &c." Though conciſe, it is nervous,

perſons that have taken on them over great authority in this Realm, ſhould be known. And that the Perſons living that have done them ſhould be corrected after the merits of their deſerts. And to that intent I have denounced, and delivered to you in writing, certain Articles againſt the Duke of Somerſet, which is one of them that is guilty thereof; whereto the Duke of Somerſet hath anſwered; and to that that he hath anſwered, I have replied in ſuch wiſe that I trow to be ſure enough that there ſhall be no vailable thing be ſaid to the contrary of my ſaid replication; and as much as he would ſay ſhall be but falſeneſs and leaſings, as by the probations that ſhall be made thereupon ſhall mow (*moreover*, or *ſoon*, *q?*) appear; howbeit that to all people of good intendment, knowing how Juſtice ought to be miniſtered, it is full apparent that the denunciations againſt him made be ſufficiently proved by deeds that have followed thereof; whereupon I have required to have overture of Juſtice by you, which ye have not yet done to me, whereof I am ſo heavy,

nervous, full to the purpoſe, and artfully addreſſed to the paſſions both of the noble Lords and the people in general, and in form and method would not diſgrace a modern Orator.

Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerſet, after the death of the Duke of Suffolk, became the Queen's favourite, and prime miniſter, and was both a valiant Soldier and an able Statesman; he fell in the firſt battle of St. Alban's, where he commanded the royal army, in May 1455.

John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, ſucceeded his father in 1435, and died in 1461. Theſe Dukes were both of them great-grandſons to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaſter. The firſt by his father, the ſecond by his mother.

For his curious Autograph, ſee Pl. I. N° 3.

On the top of the paper on which this Speech is written, is the word cōp, meaning "Copy", which ſhews that this was copied from the original paper for the Duke's own uſe, as the paper and hand writing are both of the time of Henry VI.

And at the bottom is written "Einſi ſigne M. Norff."

hevy that y may no leng^r beere it ſpeciallie ſeth the mater by me purſued ys ſo worſhipfull for all the Roy^me. and for you and ſo greable to god and to alle the ſubgettys of thys Roy^me that it may be no gretter And it ys ſuch that for anye favo^r of lignage ne for anye othyr cauſe there ſhulde be no diſſimulacon for doubt leſt that othyr yn tyme comyng take example thereoff And leſt that the full noble vertue of Juſtice that of god ys ſo greetly recōmaunded be extinct or quenched by the fals oppinions of ſom that for the grete bribes that the ſeyd Duc of Som^rſet hath p'myſed and yoven theym have turned theyr hertys from the wey of trouth and of juſtice ſom ſeyeng that the caſes by hym cōmitted ben but caſes of treſpaſſe And othyr takyng a colour to make an univ^rſell peas. Whereoff ev'y man that ys trewe to the ſeyd coroune avyth gretely to m'veylle that anye man wold ſey that the loſſe of ij ſo noble Duchees as Normandie and Guyen that ben well worth a greete Roy^me. comyng by ſucceſſions of fadres and modres to the ſeyd coroune ys but t'ſpaſſe Where as it hath be ſeen in manye Royaumes, and lordſhyps, that for the loſſe of tounes or Caſtells wythoute Sege the Cap^nes that hav loſt theym han be deede and beheded and her godes loſt as in Fr'unce one that loſt Chyrborough And alſo a knyght that fledd for dred of bataille ſhulde be byheded ſoo that alle theſe thyngs may be founden in the lawes wryten. And alſo yn the boke cleped l'arbre de bataille Wherfor, for to abbregge my langage y Requyre you that foraſmech as the more partie of the dedes cōmitted by the ſeyd Duc of Som^rſet ben cōmitted yn the Roy^me of Fr'unce, that by the lawes of

Fr'unce

that I may no longer bear it, ſpecially ſince the matter by me purſued is ſo worſhipful for all the realm, and for you, and ſo agreeable to God, and to all the Subjects of this realm, that it may be no greater; and it is ſuch that for any favour of lineage, nor for any other cauſe there ſhould be no diſſimulation, for doubt leſt that other in time coming take example thereof; and leſt that the full noble virtue of Juſtice, that of God is ſo greatly recommended, be extinct or quenched by the falſe opinions of ſome, that for the great bribes, that the ſaid Duke of Somerſet hath promiſed and given them, have turned their hearts from the way of truth and of juſtice; ſome, ſaying that the caſes by him committed be but caſes of treſpaſs, and others, taking a colour to make an univerſal peace, whereof every man that is true to the ſaid Crown, ought greatly to marvel, that any man would ſay that the loſs of two ſo noble Duchies as Normandy and Guyenne, that be well worth a great realm, coming by ſucceſſions of fathers and mothers to the ſaid Crown, is but treſpaſs; whereas it hath been ſeen in many Realms and Lordſhips, that, for the loſs of towns or caſtles without ſiege, the Captains that have loſt them have been dead and beheaded, and their Goods loſt; as in France one that loſt Cherburgh; and alſo a Knight that fled for dread of battle ſhould be beheaded; ſo that all theſe things may be found in the laws written, and alſo in the book cleped [*called*] "*L'arbre de Bataile*;" wherefore for to abridge my language, I require you that for as much as the more part of the deeds committed by the ſaid Duke of Somerſet (*have*) been committed in the realm of France, that,

Fr'unce proceſſe be made thereuppon And that all thyng that y have delyv'ed and ſhall delyv'e be ſeen and underſtand by people havyng knoulige theroff And that the dedes cōmitted by hym in thys Roy^me bee yn lyke wyſe ſeen and underſtand by people lerned yn the lawes of thys land And for preffe thereoff to gr'unt cōmiſſions to inquere thereoff as by reaſon and of cuſtom it owyth to be doon callyng god and you all my lordes to wytneſſe of the devoirs by me doon in thys ſeyd mat'e. And requyeyng you that thys my bille and alle othyr my devoirs may be enacted before you. And that y may have it exemplified undre the kyngs grete ſeele for my diſcharge and acquytaille of my trouth makyng proteſtac'on that in caſe that ye make not to me ouv'ture of juſtice upon the ſeyd caas. y ſhall for my diſcharge do my peyn that my ſeyd devoirs and the ſeyd lak of juſtice ſhall be knowen through all the Roy^me.

Einſi ſigne,

J. M. Norff.

12 by 8 ½.

I C T.

by the Laws of France, proceſs be made thereupon; and that all things that I have delivered and ſhall deliver, be ſeen and underſtood by people having knowledge thereof, and that the deeds committed by him in this realm be in like wiſe ſeen and underſtood by people learned in the Laws of this Land; and for proof thereof to grant Commiſſions to enquire thereof, as by reaſon and of cuſtom it ought to be done, calling God and you all my Lords to witneſs of the devoirs by me done in this ſaid matter; and requiring you that this my bill, and all other my devoirs may be enacted before you, and that I may have it exemplified under the King's great Seal for my diſcharge and acquittal of my truth, making proteſtation that in caſe that ye make not to me overture of Juſtice upon the ſaid caſe, I ſhall for my diſcharge do my pain, that my ſaid devoirs and the ſaid lack of Juſtice ſhall be known through all this realm.

Ainſi Signe,

JOHN MOWBRAY, } NORFOLK.

1450, or 1453. 29 or 32 H. VI.

LETTER XXXIX.

To my revr̃ent and worchepfull
Mayſtr. Sr John Faſtolf knyght
be this lre delyu'ed.

RIGHT reur̃ent and w'chipfull Maiſtr I recomaunde me louly un to yow pleaſe you to wete the Sonday next aftr the feſt of the ı Jnuencon of the cros the ix day of May at Caſtre J receyued a lre from you by yor Clerk W. Barker the Tenure wherof I ſhall do ſpede in all haſt goodly But for the more ſp'ial cauſe of my wrytyng at this tyme is to gef you relacon of the un true demenyng of this oure detrmynr by the parcialte of the Iugez of it For whan the Counſell of the Cite of Norwich of the toun of Swafh'm youres my Maiſtr Ingloſe Paſtons and many other playntyfs had put in and declared bothe by writyng and by woord by fore the Jugez the lawfull excepcons in many wiſe. the Iuges by ther wilfulneſſe myght nat fynde in ther hert to gef not als moche as a bek ner a twynclyng of ther Eye toward but toke it to deriſcon god reforme ſuch p'cialte.

This very curious Letter gives us a true picture of the proceedings in our Courts of juſtice at this time. We find thoſe in the higheſt departments of the law openly partial; and that the Suitors in the Court came attended by large parties of Friends in military array, to drive away their opponents; from this the wiſdom of our preſent regulation is apparent, when all Soldiers are ordered to quit the town in which Aſſizes are holden, during the time of their continuance, leſt it ſhould be ſuppoſed they might befriend one, and intimidate the other party in any legal proceſs; this proceeding is now always enforced, unleſs when any daring offender againſt the laws is to be tried, and there are any apprehenſions of an intended reſcue.

And

LETTER XXVII.

To my reverend and worſhipful Maſter Sir John Faſtolf, Knight, be this Letter delivered.

RIGHT reverend and worſhipful Maſter, I recommend me lowly unto you, pleaſe you to weet the Sunday, next after the feaſt of the [1] Invention of the Croſs, the 9th day of May, at Caiſter, I received a letter from you by your clerk, W. Barker, the tenour whereof I ſhall do ſpeed in all haſte goodly; but for the more ſpecial cauſe of my writing at this time is to give you relation of the untrue demeaning this Oyer *(and)* Determiner, by the partiality of the Judges of it, for when the Counſel of the city of Norwich, of the town of Swaffham, yours, my maſter Inglos, Paſtons, and many others Plaintiffs, had put in and declared both by writing and by word before the Judges the lawful exceptions in many wiſe, the Judges by their wilfulneſs might not find in their heart to give not as much as a beck nor a twinkling of their eye toward, but took it to deriſion, God reform

To the honour of our Country it may be truly ſaid, that our Judges for ages paſt have been, not only thought, but always found ſuperior to either bribery, corruption, or partiality; and to the immortal honour of our preſent Sovereign King George III. it ought to be ever remembered, that he in the beginning of his reign appointed his Judges for life, who, before, held their high office only during the royal pleaſure.

It does not appear what the buſineſs was which cauſed theſe complaints againſt the proceedings.

[1] The third of May.

And by cauſe [2] P'ſot thought that yf the Seſſions of the Oyer det'myner had be holden at Norwich as they bygonne he ſuppoſed it ſhuld nat ſo faſt paſſe to th'entent of Tudenh'm and Heydon and ther felawes as it ſhuld do ell in other place but enj'oned to Walſyngh'm wher they haue grettiſt rule ther to be holden on Tueſday iiij^te day of May This knowyng my Maiſt'. Yelv'ton Denney and other myght weel conceyue how the gou'naunce of the oyer det'myner ſhuld p'cede for it was the moſt p'cial place of alle the Shire and thedre wer cleped alle the frendez knyghteys and Eſquiers and other gentilmen that wolde in nowiſe do other wiſe than they wolde and the ſeid Tudenh'm Heydon and other opp'ſſours of ther ſet Come doun theder as I underſtand w^t iiij^c hors and more and Conſideryng how ther wellwillers wer ther aſſembled at ther Jnſtaunce it had be right Jowp'to' and ferefull for any of the pleyntyfs to haue be p'ſent for ther was nat one of the pleyntyfs ner Compley'u'ntez ther but your right feithfull and truſty weel willer John Paſton. And my Maiſt' [3] Yelu'ton ſeid full diſcretly and countrolled the ſeid p'ſot when he ſeid ſittyng in the Guyhalle of Norwich theſe wordys to the Meyre and the Co'alte A Sr Meyre and yor brethern as to the p'ceſſe of yo'e Compleyntez we wole put them in Contynuance but in all other we wole p'cede which wordys Yelu'ton thought right parciall And by ſide this the ſeid P'ſot wolde

[2] In 1443 John Privot was made a Serjeant at Law, and in 1449 was appointed Chief Juſtice of the Common Pleas, which poſt he held till 1462, when he was ſucceeded by Robert Danby.

[3] Sir William Yelverton, of Rougham, in Norfolk, became a Serjeant at Law in 1440, was

ſuch partiality; and becauſe [2] Priſot thought that if the Seſſions of the Oyer and Determiner had been holden at Norwich as they begun, he ſuppoſed it ſhould not ſo faſt paſs to the intent of Todenham, and Heydon, and their Fellows, as it ſhould do elſe in other place, but enjoined [*adjourned*] to Walſingham, where they have greateſt rule, there to be holden on Tueſday 4th day of May.

This knowing, my Maſter Yelverton [3], Jenney, and others might well conceive for the governance of the Oyer and Determiner ſhould proceed, for it was the moſt partial place of all the ſhire, and thither were cleped [*called*] all the friends, knights, and eſquires, and other Gentlemen that would in no wiſe do otherwiſe than they would, and the ſaid Todenham, Heydon, and other oppreſſors of their ſet, came down thither, as I underſtand, with 400 horſe and more, and conſidering how their well willers were there aſſembled at their inſtance, it had been right jeopardous and fearful for any of the Plaintiffs to have been preſent, for there was not one of the Plaintiffs nor Complainants there, but your right faithful and truſty well willer John Paſton. And my maſter [3] Yelverton ſaid full diſcreetly, and controulled the ſaid Priſot when he ſaid, ſitting in the Guildhall of Norwich, theſe words to the Mayor and the Commonalty.

"A Sir Mayor and your Brethren, as to the proceſs of your complaints we will put them in continuance, but in all other we will proceed," which words Yelverton thought right partial;

was made a Judge of the King's Bench in 1444, created a Knight of the Bath in 1460, and was alive in 1467. He married firſt Jane, daughter of Oliver le Gros, Eſq. of Sloley, in Norfolk; ſecondly, Ela, daughter of Sir Robert Brewſe, of Wetingham, in Suffolk, by each of whom he left iſſue; and by the laſt was anceſtor to the preſent Earl of Suſſex.

wolde ſuffre no man that was lerned to ſpeke for the pleyntyfs but took it as a venom and took them by the noſe at eu^ry thred woord whiche myght weel by knowe for open p'cialte And as for the lord [4] Scalys ye knowe well what he is toward you and namely for hikelyng mat^r Alſo to knowe ſom of your feynt frendes at the tyme that my lord Norff. ſat at Norwich up on the oyer det^rmyn^r Sr John Hevyngh'm myht nat fynde it in his hert to go iiij furlong from his duellyng place to the Shireho' but now he cowd ryde from Norwich to Walſyngh'm to ſyt as one of the Co'myſſioners as to the rule of other that ye wolde haue ſuppoſed your wellewillers how they haue byhavyd them at Walſyngh'm I ſhall ſende yow woord in all haſt Whan Bernay Come hom to Caſtr for he is nat yet Come from Walſyngh'm but this I knowe well that they founde none obſtacle ner impedyment in ther Conſciens in all your mat^r but how they haue do with Norwich Swafh'm and Paſton J am nat yet clerly informed I ſuppoſe they arn put in reſpite I here ſey Heydon ſeweth for an ende to be had w^t the Cite of Norwich and as to the namys of them that paſſed on ther acquitaile ayenſt yow Broyn Can weell informe yow I und^rſtand that S^r. Robt Conyers [5] Calthorp [6] Mundford wer Capteyns and maiſter R'c Doget alſo It'm as for the ij venir'fac' ye ſent to be ret'ned for yor man'z of Bradwell and Beyton I haue do them to be re-

torned

[4] Thomas, Lord Scales, was a Knight of the Garter, he left an only daughter and heir married to Sir Anthony Widville, who in her right was ſummoned to parliament as Baron Scales, in 1461.

[5] He was of a very ancient and flouriſhing family at this time, in the county of Norfolk,

and beſide this the ſaid Privot would ſuffer no man that was learned to ſpeak for the Plaintiffs, but took it as a venom, and took them by the noſe at every third word, which might well be known for open partiality.

And as for the Lord [4] Scales ye know well what he is towards you, and namely for Hickling matter. Alſo to know ſome of your feint friends, at the time that my Lord of Norfolk ſat at Norwich upon the Oyer and Determiner, Sir John Hevingham might not find it in his heart to go four furlongs from his dwelling place to the ſhire houſe, but now he could ride from Norwich to Walſingham to ſit as one of the Commiſſioners; as to the rule of others, that ye would have ſuppoſed your well willers, how they have behaved at Walſingham I ſhall ſend you word in all haſte when Berney come home to Caiſter, for he is not yet come from Walſingham, but this I know well, that they found none obſtacle nor impediment in their conſcience in all your matter, but how they have done with Norwich, Swaffham, and Paſton, I am not yet clearly informed, I ſuppoſe they are put in reſpite; I hear ſay Heydon ſueth for an end to be had with the City of Norwich; and as to the names of them that paſſed on their acquital againſt you, Broyn can well inform you, I underſtand that Sir Robert Conyers, [5] Calthorp, (*and*) [6] Mundford were Captains, and Maſter Richard Doget alſo.

Item, as for the two "Venire Facias," ye ſent to be returned for your Manors of Bradwell and Beyton, I have done them

folk, but which is now extinct in the male line, by the death of Sir Henry Calthorpe, Knight of the Bath, who died in his ſeventy-ſecond year, ſenior Knight Companion of that moſt honourable Order in 1788.

[6] This was an ancient Family, formerly ſituated at Feltwell, in Norfolk.

torned of ſuche namys as I haue ſent Woord byfore Sauyng ſume be take and except out Moreou' as for the matr of Sr John Sibton Geney and Raulyns gef ful Counſell that it ſhuld abyde tyl the matr of Bradwell myght p'cede ſo that bothe maters myght take up on a day for they ſey it wold drawe xx m'rc to labor the Jur' to london and yet it wer hard to bryng about And they gef yow Counſell in all wiſe that ye labor to haue Yelurton Iuge at that tyme And in all wiſe bothe in that mat'z and in all other that ye be war that P'ſot haue not to haue do in any wiſe for than all wole be nought Of alle other mat'z I ſhall ſend you woord in all haſt goodly for at thys tyme I had no leyſer by cauſe of the haſty Comyng up of Hug Fen whom I beſeche yow to fele of the demenyng of the oyer determynr for he Can telle yow moche and he wole whether he wole or nay I can nat ſey For I know wele he was at Walſyngh'm And I beſeche all myghty Jhu haue yow in his mrcyfull gouernnce Wret' at Caſtre the Sonday ix day of May Ao xxixo R. H. vjti.

11 ¼ by 16 ¾.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. xxii. No 15.

On the back of the Letter is written,

I prey yow be nowth diſpleſed thow I have nowt ſubſcribed my name winne forth for it is of neclygens quoth [7] Howys parſon of Caſtlecomb.

[7] Autograph. Pl. xix. No 16.

LET-

to be returned of ſuch names as I have ſent word before, ſaving ſome be taken and excepted out. Moreover, as for the matter of Sir John Sybton; Geney and Rawlins give full counſel that it ſhould abide till the matter of Bradwell might proceed, ſo that both matters might take upon a day, for they ſay it will draw 20 marks (13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) to labour the Jury to London, and yet it were hard to bring about; and they give you counſel in all wiſe, that ye labour to have Yelverton Judge at that time, and in all wiſe, both in that matter and in all others, that ye be ware that Priſot have not to have do in any wiſe, for then all will be nought. Of all other matters I ſhall ſend you word in all haſte goodly, for at this time I had no leiſure becauſe of the haſty coming up of Hugh Fenn, whom I beſeech you to feel of the demeaning of the Oyer and Determiner, for he can tell you much and [*if*] he will, whether he will or nay, I cannot ſay; for I know well he was at Walſingham. And I beſeech Almighty Jeſu have you in his merciful governance.

Written at Caiſter the Sunday 9th day of May, in the 29th year of King Henry VI.

Caiſter, Sunday 9 May,
1451. 29 H. VI.

On the back of the Letter is written,

I pray you be not diſpleaſed though I have not ſubſcribed my name within forth, for it is of negligence ſaith [7] Howys, Parſon of Caſtlecomb.

LETTER XXXIII.

To my Rygth Worſhypfull
hoſbond jon Paſton be this
delyverd in haſt.

RYGTH worchypfull hoſbond I recōmawnd me to yow deſyrȳg hertyly to her of yowr wellfar Preying yow to wete that I have ſpoke w^t my lady Felbrygg of that ye bad me ſpeke to her of And ſhe ſeyd pleynly to me that ſhe wold not ne nevyr was avyſyd ney^r to lete ye lord Moleyns ne non oy^r to have ther intents as for y^t Mat^r whyll y^t ſhe levyth And ſhe was rygth evyll payd w^t Sawtr that he ſhuld reporte as itt was told yow yat he ſhuld have reportyd And ſhe made rygth moche of yow and ſeyd y^t ſhe wold nowgth y^t no ſ^r vau'te of herys ſhuld reporte no thyng y^t ſhuld be ayens yow oy^r wyſe yan ſhe wolld y^t yor ſ^r vawnts ſhud do or ſeyn ayens her And if oy^r yor ſ^r vawnts dede ayens her or any of her ayens yow ſhe wold y^t itt ſhuld be reformyd be twyx yow and her And y^t ye mygth ben all on For ſhe ſeyd in good feyth ſhe deſyryth yor frendſhep And as for ye report of Sawtr ſhe ſeyd ſhe ſuppoſyd y^t he wold nowgth reporte ſo And if ſhe mygth know y^t he dede ſhe wold blame hym y'for. I told her y^t itt was told me ſyth y^t ye reden and y^t itt grevyd me mor y^t y^e ſeyd Sawtr ſhuld r'porte as he dede yan itt

The former part of this Letter is of little conſequence; we learn from it indeed that miſrepreſentations ſubverſive of good neighbourhood proceeded then as now from ſervants and others.

In the latter part we find Treacle ſpoken of as a medicine of great efficacy and conſequence.

had

LETTER XXVIII.

To my right worſhipful huſband, John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I recommend me to you, deſiring heartily to hear of your welfare, praying you to weet that I have ſpoken with my Lady Felbrigg of that ye bade me ſpeak to her of, and ſhe ſaid plainly to me, that ſhe would not, nor never was adviſed, neither to let the Lord Molyns nor none other to have their intents as for that matter, while that ſhe liveth; and ſhe was right evil paid with Sauter that he ſhould report as it was told you that he ſhould have reported; and ſhe made right much of you, and ſaid, that ſhe would nought that no ſervant of hers ſhould report nothing that ſhould be againſt you, otherwiſe than ſhe would that your ſervants ſhould do or ſay againſt her; and if either your ſervants did againſt her, or any of hers againſt you, ſhe would that it ſhould be reformed betwixt you and her, and that ye might be all one; for ſhe ſaid in good faith ſhe deſired your friendſhip; and as for the report of Sauter, ſhe ſaid, ſhe ſuppoſed that he would nought report ſo, and if ſhe might know that he did, ſhe would blame him therefore; I told her that it was told me ſince that ye rode, and that it grieved me more that the ſaid Sauter ſhould

Sir Henry Inglos's Will was proved on the 4th of July, 1451, by which he deſired to be buried in the Preſbytery of the Priory of St. Faith, at Horſham St. Faith's, in Norfolk, a Priory founded by Robert de Caen, in 1105, in memory of a miraculous delivery from impriſonment by his prayers to God and St. Faith, the Virgin. The removal of his body ſo immediately after his death ſeems extraordinary.

had be reportyd of anoy^{r} in als moche as I had awgth hym good-wyll befor And ſhe p'yid me y^{t} I ſhud not beleve ſeche reports tyll I knew the trowth I was att Toppys at dyner on ſeynt Pety's day ther my lady Felbrygg and oy^{r} Jantyll Women deſyryd^{r} to have hadde yow ther they ſeyd they ſhuld all abe ye meryer If ye hadde ben ther my Coſyn Toppys hath moche Car tyll ſhe her goode tydyngs of her broy'is mat^{r} ſche told me y^{t} y^{y} ſhuld kepte a day on Monday next komȳg be twyx her broy^{r} and Ser Andrew Hugard and Wyndh'm I p'y yow ſend me word how they ſpede and how ye ſpede in yowr owyn mat'ys alſo Alſo I p'y yow hertyly that ye woll ſend me a potte w^{t} t'acle in haſt For I have ben rygth evyll att eſe and yor dowghter boy^{e} ſyth y^{t} ye yeden hens and on of ye talleſt yo'nge men of y^{is} paryſch lyth ſyke and hath a gr'te [1] myrr' how he ſhall do god knowyth I have ſent myn Unkyll Berney the potte w^{t} t'acle y^{t} ye dede bey for hym myn Awnte r'cōmawnd^{t} her to yow and p'yith yow to do for her as the byll mak^{t} mencon of that I ſend you w^{t} this lett^{r} and as ye thenk beſt for to do y'inne Ser Henry Ingloſe is paſſyd to God this nygth hoys ſowle god aſoy^{ll} and was caryid fory^{e} this day at ix of ye clok to Seynt Feyy^{is} and ther ſhall be beryid If ye deſyer to bey any of hys ſtuff I p'y y^{u} ſend me word y^{r}of in haſt and I ſhall ſpeke to Rob't Ingloſe and to Wychyngh'm y' of I ſuppoſe yei ben executors The blyſſyd t'nyte have y^{u} in his kepȳg Wretyn at Norwyche in haſt on the Thurſday next aft^{r} Seynt Pet^{r}.

[1] If myrr' here ſignifies murrain, it muſt mean a Conſumption.

I p'y

report as he did, than it had been reported of another, inaſmuch as I had ought him good will before; and ſhe prayed me that I ſhould not believe ſuch reports till I know the truth.

I was at Topps's at dinner on ſaint Peter's day, there my Lady Felbrigg and other Gentlewomen deſired to have had you there; they ſaid, they ſhould all have been the merrier if ye had been there. My Couſin Topps hath much care till ſhe hears good tidings of her brother's matter, ſhe told me that they ſhould keep a day on Monday next coming betwixt her brother and Sir Andrew Hugard [*Ogard*] and Wyndham; I pray you ſend me word how they ſpeed, and how ye ſpeed in your own matters alſo.

Alſo, I pray you heartily that ye will ſend me a pot with Treacle in haſte, for I have been right evil at eaſe, and your Daughter both, ſince that ye yeden [*went*] henee, and one of the talleſt young men of this pariſh lyeth ſick, and hath a great Myrr [*murrain q?*] how he ſhall do God knoweth.

I have ſent my Uncle Berney the pot with treacle that ye did buy for him, mine aunt recommendeth her to you, and prayeth you to do for her as the bill maketh mention of, that I ſend you with this letter, and as ye think beſt for to do therein. Sir Harry Inglos is paſſed to God this night, whoſe ſoul God aſſoil; and was carried forth this day at nine of the clock to Saint Faith's, and there ſhall be buried.

If ye deſire to buy any of his ſtuff, I pray you ſend me word thereof in haſte, and I ſhall ſpeak to Robert Inglos, and to Wichingham thereof; I ſuppoſe they be Executors. The bleſſed Trinity have you in his keeping. Written at Norwich in haſte on the Thurſday next after Saint Peter.

I p'y yow troſt nott to y^e [2] Sheryve for no fayr langage.

[3] Yours,

11 ¾ by 8 ⅝. M. P.

[2] John Clopton was Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk this year.

LETTER XXIX.

To my maiſt^r Paſton.

PLEASE your gode maiſt^rſhip to wete that as yerſtenday came l'res from london that the p^rſon moſt nedys up to london to ſafe the next Am^rciem't. And ſo ys forth to appiere yff he nedys moſt xv Jōhis as ye ſhall ſee by Barker's l're and ſhall be to morn' at london and w^t goddes gr'ce he ſhall be releved by the meene of the parlem't by ſonday yee ſhall hafe weetyng as for my maiſt^r he departyth not to london tille the next weke aft^r thys and he ryde As for tydyngs be none couthe but Ponyngs ys qwyt and delyv'ed of all tr'ſons and Sr Wm Oldhale ys p^rceſs yn the kyngs bynche Rev^rſed and the p'ſt that acouſed lordz [1] Cromewell [2] Grey and my [3] maiſt^r wolle Confeſſe who cauſed hym to do it ſo that he may have hys lyve &c.

This Letter relates to what paſſed at Blackheath when the Commons of Kent aſſembled there under Jack Cade, in 1450, when Robert Poynings was his Sword-bearer and carver, who afterwards married Elizabeth, the ſiſter of John Paſton.

It could not be written before 1451, as it gives an account of Poynings' Pardon, and of the Prieſt's confeſſion who had accuſed the Lords Cromwell, and Grey, and Sir John Faſtolf, of treaſon.

Aſſone

I pray you truſt not to the [2] Sheriff for no fair language.

Yours,

[1] MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,
Thurſday, 1ſt of July
1451. 29 H. VI.

[1] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

LETTER XXIX.

To my Maſter Paſton.

PLEASE your good maſterſhip to weet, that as yeſterday came letters from London that the Parſon muſt needs up to London to ſave the next amerciament; And ſo (*he*) is forth to appear, if he needs muſt, xv Johannis (*Quinſieme Johannis*, 8 *July*) as ye ſhall ſee by Barker's letter, and ſhall be to morn [*tomorrow*] at London, and with God's grace he ſhall be relieved by the mean of the Parliament; by Sunday ye ſhall have weeting.

As for my Maſter (*Sir J. Faſtolf*) he departeth not to London till the next week after this, and he ride.

As for tidings be none truth, but Ponyngs is quit and delivered of all treaſons; and Sir William Oldhall's proceſs in the King's Bench (*is*) reverſed; and the Prieſt that accuſed Lords [1] Cromwell, [2] Grey, and my [3] Maſter will confeſs who cauſed him to do it, ſo that he may have his life, &c.

[1] Henry Lord Cromwell.

[2] There were ſeveral Lords Grey at this time, which of them is the Perſon here mentioned cannot now be aſcertained.

[3] By J. Payn's Letter (See vol. I. Letter XIII. p. 54.) it appears that he was urged to have accuſed his Maſter Sir J. Faſtolf of Treaſon.

Aſſone as ye goodly may to ſee my maiſt^{r} it ſhall be to hym a ſing'ler pleas' S^{r} a baylly of my maiſt^{r} ys yn drayton John Eimond brought a l're to yow and he ſent me wetyng he was ſhent uppon ſom mater as he ſuppoſyth conteyned yn the l're y pr'y you yn ryght be hys gode maiſt^{r} and that y may wete the cauſe for y doubt he ſhall and moſt obbey yff he hath offended at Caſtr the [4] noneday vij day Jullet.

Yo^{r}

[5] W. Worceſtre.

11 ½ by 3 ¼.

On the top of this Letter in a different hand is written.

[6] P've ontrouthe in the undir ſherif or that he dede othir wiſe thaune yo'r counſell avyſid hym And Paſton ſhall demene hym acordyng.

11 ¾ by 3 ½.

[4] The day of the Nones.

[5] Autograph. See the letter part of the Signature Pl. II. N° 24. and Pl. xx. N° 31.

Paper Mark,
A Ring.
Pl. xxi. N° 4.

As ſoon as ye goodly may to ſee my maſter, it ſhall be to him a ſingular pleaſure. Sir, a Bailiff of my Maſter's is in Drayton. John Edmond brought a letter to you, and he ſent me weeting he was ſhent [*blamed*] upon ſome matter, as he ſuppoſeth, contained in the letter. I pray you in right be his good maſter, and that I may weet the cauſe, for I doubt he ſhall and muſt obey, if he hath offended.

At Caiſter the [4] noneday, 7 day (*of*) July.

Your

[5] WILLIAM WORCESTER.

Caiſter,
Noneday, 7 July,
about 1451. 29 H. VI.

On the top of this Letter, in a different hand, is written.

[6] Prove untruth in the Underſheriff, or that he did otherwiſe than your Counſel adviſed him, and Paſton ſhall demean him accordingly.

[6] This appears to have been written by ſome one whoſe advice had been aſked in ſome Law Proceedings.

LETTER XXX.

To my truſty Frendys
Sr Thomas Howys prſon of
Caſtellcombe beyng at
Caſtre.

RYGHT truſty frendys I grete you well It' where as the Byſshop of [1] Norwych makyth but delayes in my reſonable deſyre for an eende to be had in the xxv marc of [2] Hykelyng y am uppon a Appoyntem't and throw wyth the heyr of Clyfford that he ſhall entree in the hole maner that ys chargeable wyth my xxv m'rc Rent which the Pryour and Convent have forfeted the ſeid hole manor to the heyers undre her Convent ſeele of Record becauſe of myne nonne paym't of xxv m'rc and ſo then the Pryor ſhall leſe for ever iiij^{xx} m'rc of Rent And that wythout onye concience for they have be fals both to the Clyffordys and to me thys vij yeere day and y truſt to god to correct hem ſo by ſpirituell law and temp'ell law that all othyr Relygyoux ſhall take an example to breke the Coven'nt or wille of anye benefacto' that avu'cyth hem wyth londs Rents or gode and my confeſſours have exorted me gretely ther too.

And

This Letter affords a curious inſtance of Sir John Faſtolf's reſolution in determining to attack a religious ſociety in the Courts of law, and that he ſhould do ſo by the advice of his Confeſſors appears very extraordinary, but I ſuppoſe they were Seculars, and they had always a diſlike to the Regular Clergy.

[1] Walter Lyhart, or Hart, became Biſhop of Norwich in 1446, and died in 1472.

[2] The eſtate out of which this Rent-Charge of xxv marks had been reſerved was ſettled on

LETTER XXX.

To my truſty Friend, Sir Thomas Howes, Parſon of Caſtlecomb, being at Caiſter.

RIGHT truſty friend I greet you well, and whereas the Biſhop of [1] Norwich maketh but delays in my reaſonable deſire for an end to be had in the xxv marks (16*l.* 13*s.*. 4*d.*) of Hickling, I am upon an appointment and through with the heir of Clifford, that he ſhall enter in the whole manor that is chargeable with my xxv marks rent, which the Prior and Convent have forfeited the ſaid whole manor to the heirs under their Convent Seal of Record, becauſe of mine non-payment of xxv marks, and ſo then the Prior ſhall loſe for ever fourſcore marks (53*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) of rent, and that without any conſcience, for they have been falſe both to the Cliffords and to me this ſeven year day; and I truſt to God to correct them ſo by Spiritual Law and Temporal Law, that all other Religious ſhall take an example to break the Covenant or will of any Benefactor that advanceth them with lands, rents, or goods; and my Confeſſors have exhorted me greatly thereto. And Almighty God keep you.

on the Priory of Hickling by ſome of the family of Clifford. William Clifford, in 1419, aſſigned this rent-charge to Henry Barton; who, in 1428, aſſigned it to Sir John Faſtolf, who was now going to convey it to a Clifford again. This Priory was firſt founded in 1185, 31 H. II. and Roger Oakham was at this time Prior, a moſt turbulent man, of whom Sir John Faſtolf, in another letter to Sir Thomas Howes, dated 28th of June, 1451, 29 Hen. VI. ſays (ſpeaking of giving money to religious houſes), "The untrouthe of the Priour of Hykelyng draweth away my devotion in ſuch cauſes."

And Almyghty god kepe you Wryt at london the xxiij day of Septēber A° xxx° R. H. vj.

[3]John Faſtolf kt.

[3] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 15.

There is one Walſam wold deſyre acquitunce of pardon for the wydow of Hygh'm, I hafe no cauſe for hyr huſband left hyr whereoff to pay hyr debts ſuffiſūnt and for me he ferre the bett[r].

The wydow noyſyth you S[r] Thomas that ye ſold a wey ſalt but for xx[s] that ſhe might hafe had xl[s] for ev[r]y wey I p[r]y you aunſwer that for yo[r] acquytaille.

Itm, ſende me the value of Cooke ys [4]tenem't in Drayton wyth xx acres lond y[r]to what it was worth yeerly when it ſtode hoole for Sellyng ſeith it was worth but j noble by yeer.

[3] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 15.

[4] Sir John ſeems to think that Selling had undervalued the tenement and 20 acres of land, he ſet it only at 4d. an acre yearly rent.

LETTER XXXJ.

To Wiliam Wayte.

RITH feithful and welbelouyd Broy[r] Wiliam Wayte I comaunde me to yow as y[e] lord may to his ten'nt praying you effectualy to recomaunde me to my ſing'ler gode mayſt[r] and yours excuſyng me y[t] I write not to hym for I dar not envolde me in the ſame And as for tydyngs her I certifye you y[t]

all

Written at London the 23d day of September in the 30th year of King Henry VI.

[3] JOHN FASTOLF, KNIGHT.

London
Thurſday 23 Sept^r.
1451. 30 H. VI.

There is one Walſham would deſire acquittance of pardon for the widow of Heigham, I have no cauſe, for her huſband left her whereof to pay her debts ſufficient, and for me he fares the better; the widow noiſeth you, Sir Thomas, that ye ſold a wey *(of)* ſalt but for 20s. that ſhe might have had 40s. for every wey, I pray you anſwer that for your acquittal.

Item, ſend me the value of Cooke's [4] tenement in Drayton with twenty acres *(of)* land thereto, what it was worth yearly, when it ſtood whole, for Selling, ſaith it was worth but one noble (6*s*. 8*d*.) by the year.

LETTER XXXI.

To William Wayte.

RIGHT faithful and wellbeloved brother William Wayte, I I commend me to you, as the Lord may to his tenant, praying you effectually to recommend me to my ſingular good maſter and yours, excuſing me that I write not to him, for I dare not envolde [*involve*] me in the ſame; And as for tidings here,

all is no^{t} or will be no^{t} the kyng borweth hes exp'ns' for Criſtemeſſe the [1] kyng of Aragon ye Duc of Myleyn ye Duc of Oſtrich ye Duc of Burgoyn wolde ben aſſiſtent to us to make a conqueſt and noying is aunſwered ner agreed in maner ſaue abydyng the grete delib'acon y^{t} aty^{e} laſt zall ſpill all to goder &c the [2] chief Yiſtice hath waited to ben aſſauted all this ſeuenyght myghtly in hes hous but noying Come as yett ye more pite &c. On [3] Oyr & det^{r}nimer goth in to Kent & Comiſſion's my lord ye Duc of York Bouchier my Mayſt^{r} y^{t} will not Come y'e de p'dic'oibz &c. but kent praeth hem to hang no men when yei Com'e other tydyngs as yett can I non tell you ſaue Ulueſton is Styward of ye mydill Jnne And Jſley of the Jnner Jnne be cauſe thei wold have officz for excuſe for dwellyng this tyme from her wyves &c. Sr T. T. loſt hes p'mer at the tour hill and ſent his man to ſeche it & a good felaw wyſhed hit in Norff. ſo he wold fetch hit y'e &c. [4] Men ween y^{t} Norff. men wer hardier yanne yei be god graunte and at the rev^{r}ence of god help too y^{t} an outas and clamo^{r} be made upon the lord ſcalez preyi n g ym forwell of the Cuntre neyther ſuſteyn ner help hym ner Heydon in no wyſe And y^{t} ye crye upon my mayſt^{r} and yours y^{t} he obeye not the Sy'corar as yett as ye may ſe be hes lre from my mayſt^{r} rudely

The whole of this familiar letter wherein the writer mixes politics and pleaſantry is not entirely explicable; nor can the date be exactly aſcertained; I have ventured to date it between 1450 and 1454.

[1] The aſſiſtance offered by the Princes here named related to our wars in France.

[2] John Hody was Chief Juſtice of the King's Bench, but I do not underſtand what is here related.

and

here, I certify you that all is nought, or will be nought; the King borweth [*borroweth*] his expences for Chriſtmas; the [1] King of Arragon, the Duke of Milan, the Duke of Oſtrich, the Duke of Burgoyn [*Burgundy*] would have been aſſiſtant to us to make a conqueſt, and nothing is anſwered nor agreed in manner, ſave abiding the great deliberation that at the laſt ſhall ſpill all together, &c.

[2] The Chief Juſtice hath waited [*expected*] to have been aſſaulted all this ſev'night nightly in his houſe, but nothing come as yet, the more pity, &c. An [3] Oyer and Determiner goeth into Kent, and Commiſſioners my Lord the Duke of York, Bourchier, my maſter, that will not come there de proditionibus, &c. but Kent prayeth them to hang no men when they come.

Other tidings as yet can I none tell you, ſave Ulveſton is Steward of the Middle Inn, and Iſley of the Inner Inn, becauſe they would have offices for excuſe for dwelling this time from their wives, &c. Sir Thomas Todenham loſt his Primer at the Tower-hill, and ſent his man to ſeek it, and a good fellow wiſhed it in Norfolk, ſo he would fetch it there, &c. [4] Men ween that Norfolk men were hardier than they be. God grant, and at the reverence of God help too that an outas (*outcry*) and clamour be made upon the Lord Scales, praying him for weal of the country, neither ſuſtain nor help him nor Heydon in no wiſe, and that ye cry upon my maſter and yours that he obey not the Certiorari as yet, as you may ſee by his letter from my maſter

[3] By what is mentioned of the Commiſſions going into Kent to try thoſe guilty of Treaſons &c. (if theſe were for that purpoſe) it appears as if it was not a great while after Cade's rebellion; and the Duke of York being one of the Commiſſioners, muſt have been greatly in favour of the rebels, as his friends were ſaid to have ſtirred up the inſurrection.

[4] It ſeems as [if ſome robuſt exerciſes had been performed on Tower-hill wherein the Norfolk men did not exert themſelves in a manner that was expected from them.

and in haſt be me endited of which I p'y excuſe &c. And prey Blake to do Swafh'm men ſey ſum what to ye matier J wote well T and H wil not Come y^re at this tyme as it is verily reported &c. Mitte ſapien' &c. Brayn & J ſhalbe w^t you on Sat^r day neſt at Evyn with ye grace of Jhu to whom J be take you in haſt at London the ij^de day of Ianuar.

By

11 by 4½

[5] J. Bockyng.

5 J. Bocking was one in the houſhold of Sir John Faſtolf. Autograph. Pl. III. N° 33.

LETTER XXXJ.

To my Right truſty and right welbeloued John Paſton

RIGHT truſty and right welbeloved I grete you wele And I am enfourmed that William Mathew of Norwich Bocher hath brought an Accyon of dette agayn Nicholas Hert a ten'nt of myn berer her'of And hath ſuppoſid by his Accyon that my ſaid ten'nt ſhuld ow hym lxx^s for his hire of tyme that he ſhuld a ben ſ^uaunt to my ſaid ten'nt Wher it is ſaid to me for trouthe that he was aprentyce to my ſaid ten'nt and neu^r othrwiſe w^t holde but as aprentice and owith no mony to here [illegible] of hym. I ſend to yow my ſaid ten'nt to gif yow clere in-

rudely and in haſte by me endited, of which I pray excuſe, &c. And pray Blake to do Swaffham men ſay ſomewhat to the matter. I weet well Todenham and Heydon will not come there at this time, as it is verily reported, &c. "Mitte ſapientem, &c." Brayn and I ſhall be with you on Saturday next at even with the grace of Jeſu, to whom I betake you. In haſte at London the 2d day of January.

By

5 J. BOCKING.

London
2 Jan^{y}.
Between 1450 & 1454.
29 & 34 H. VI.

LETTER XXXII.

To my right truſty and right well beloved John Paſton.

RIGHT truſty and right well beloved, I greet you well, and I am informed that William Mathew of Norwich, Butcher, hath brought an action of debt againſt Nicholas Hart a tenant of mine, bearer hereof, and hath ſuppoſed by his action that my ſaid tenant ſhould owe him ſeventy ſhillings for his hire, of time that he ſhould have been ſervant to my ſaid tenant; where (*as*) it is ſaid to me for truth that he was apprentice to my ſaid tenant, and never otherwiſe with-held but as apprentice, and oweth no money to have of him. I ſend to you my ſaid te-

formacyon of the matr And I p'y you that ye wole calle the Iurry before yow that arn impanellid betwen thaym and opne thaym the matr at large at myn inſtaunce and deſire thaym to do as Concyens wole and to eſchue priury. And the trinite kepe yow If ye take the matr in rule I p'y therof and wole be content Wretyn at Weuenho the xxviij day of Decembr

The Erſe of Oxenford.

11½ by 8½.

I have given this letter to ſhew the fairneſs and moderation of a nobleman, in an age when the great men uſed to tyranniſe almoſt with uncontrouled power over their inferiors.

It does the Earl credit as a man, and makes us lament his untimely death, being brought to the block in 1461 for his loyalty to his unfortunate Sovereign. Autograph. Pl. I. N° 8.

LETTER XXXIJ.

To my welbelovyd Brother
John Paſton Squïer

BROTHER Paſton I recomaunde me unto you praying you that ye take the labor. to ſpeke wt Tho's Ratclef of Frammeſden for the delyr'aunce of p't of an hous which lythe in his wode at Fraumeſden which hous the owenr. hath caryed p't therof to Orford which ſo dep'ted the remen'nt yt remayneth ther in his wode ſchall do hym lytell good and yt ſchall hurte gretly the warkeman and the owenr. therof alſo which is my ten'nt & the hous ſchuld be ſet upon my ground J wright unto you

nant to give you clear information of the matter, and I pray you that ye will call the Jury before you that are impanelled between them, and open (*to*) them the matter at large at mine inſtance, and deſire them to do as conſcience will, and to eſchew perjury; and the Trinity keep you. If ye take the matter in rule, I pray thereof, and will be content. Written at Wivenhoe the 23th day of December.

THE EARL OF OXFORD.

Wivenhoe in Eſſex,
28 Dec^r.
moſt probably written
between 1450 & 1455.
29 & 34 H. VI.

LETTER XXXIII.

To my well beloved Brother, John Paſton, Eſq.

BROTHER Paſton, I recommend me unto you, praying you that ye take the labour to ſpeak with Thomas Ratcliff of Framſden *(in Suffolk)* for the deliverance of part of an houſe which lyeth in his wood at Framſden, which houſe the owner hath carried part thereof to Orford, which ſo departed, the remanent, that remaineth there in his wood, ſhall do him little good, and it ſhall hurt greatly the workmen and the owner thereof alſo, which is my tenant, and *(if)* the houſe ſhould be ſet upon my ground.

I write

you in this be halfe be cauſe I underſtond he woll be moche aviſed by you and yf he do ony thynge at my requeſt I ſchall do as moche that ſchall pleſe hym and alſo the pore man ſchall gef hym ij nobles or xx^{s} rather yan fayle I p'y you be as good a mene for hym as ye may in this be halfe as my verry truſt is in you and I ſchall be redy at all tymes to doo y^{t} may be to yor pleſur I truſt to jhu who have you in his kepyng and [1] ſende yor joy of all yor ladyes Wretyn at Lederyngh'm this teweſday in Whiſſon weke

yor brother & frende

[2] Wyngefeld J.

Paper Mark
a Ring
Pl. xxii. N° 17.

Seal
a pair of
Wings
Pl. xiv. N° 20.

It appears from this Letter, that ſmall houſes were ſometimes framed and made ready on the ſpot where the wood was felled; ſome diſpute ſeems to have ariſen here, and the owner or occupier of the wood refuſed his conſent to the carrying away of the timber work after it had been made ready to ſet up.

[1] What is meant by this expreſſion, "ſende yor Joy of all yor ladyes," I do not underſtand, unleſs it ſhould have been meant to ſignify, Send you all the joys of our Lady.

I write unto you in this behalf, becauſe I underſtand he will be much adviſed by you, and if he do any thing at my requeſt I ſhall do as much that ſhall pleaſe him; and alſo the poor man ſhall give him two nobles, or twenty ſhillings, rather than fail; I pray you be as good a mean for him as ye may in this behalf, as my very truſt is in you, and I ſhall be ready at all times to do that may be to your pleaſure, I truſt to Jeſu, who have you in his keeping, and [1] ſend you joy of all your ladies.

Written at Letheringham, this Tueſday in Whitſun week.

Your Brother and Friend,

[2] J. WYNGFIELD.

Tueſday.
May or June,
between 1450 and 1460.
28 and 38 H. VI.

[2] Sir John Wyngfield, the writer of this Letter, was a knight of that very ancient family of Wingfield Caſtle, in Suffolk. He was now ſeated at Letheringham, and, I believe, married Margaret daughter of Sir Hugh Haſtyngs, of Elſing in Norfolk. His ſignature is very particular, the initial I of his Chriſtian name being placed at the end of his ſurname.

The family of Wingfield were remarkable for their anceſtry, valour, and riches.

This letter ſeems to have been written towards the latter end of Henry VI.'s reign.

Autograph. Pl. XVIII. N° 7.

LET-

LETTER XXXIV.

To my Ryght Worchipffull
Coſyn Margarete Paſton
be yis lettr delivred.

RYGHT Worchipfull and welbeloved coſyn I comāunde me to you as herteli as I can thankyng you off yor goode cher ye laſt tyme I was wt you And worchippfull coſyn pleaſe yt you to calle un to your remēbrauns I wrote un to you For my coſyn Anneys loveday to have ben in yor ſrvic And I r'ſeyved From you a lettr that your wyll was goode but durſt not to in to ye tyme ye hadde ſpoke wt my Coſyn your huſbonde. Worchippfull Coſyn I have labored For hir in othir placez but I cā not have my entent as yet. Wherffor yff that hit pleaſe you to have hyr wt you to in to ye tyme that A Maſtris may be prveyeid For hir I pray you ther off And I ſhall cōtēte you ffor hir boarde that ye ſhal be wel pleaſed For Coſyn And I hadde A wyff I wolde not care ffor hir And ther as ſhe is ſhe is not well at hir Eaſe For ſhe is At Rob. lethum And therfor I pray you herteli that ye wyll tendr' this my Writyng And I beſeche you that in cas be that ye wyll fulffylle hit that ye wel ſende my Coſyn Will Staunton for hir And I ſhal kepe you trewe prmys. As I have

be

LETTER XXXIV.

To my right worſhipful Couſin Margaret Paſton be this letter delivered.

RIGHT worſhipful and well beloved couſin I commend me to you as heartily as I can, thanking you of your good cheer the laſt time I was with you; and, worſhipful couſin, pleaſe it you to call unto your remembrance, I wrote unto you for my couſin Anneys Loveday to have been in your ſervice, and I received from you a letter that your will was good, but *(you)* durſt not to into the time ye had ſpoken with my couſin your huſband.

Worſhipful couſin, I have laboured for her in other places, but I cannot have mine intent as yet, wherefore if that it pleaſe you to have her with you to into the time that a miſtreſs may be purveyed for her, I pray you thereof, and I ſhall content you for her board, that ye ſhall be well pleaſed; for couſin and *(if)* I had a wife, I would not care for her; and there as *(where)* ſhe is, ſhe is not well at her eaſe, for ſhe is at Robert Lethum's, and therefore I pray you heartily, that ye will tender this my writing, and I beſeech you that in caſe be that ye will fulfil it, that ye will ſend my couſin William Staunton for her, and I ſhall keep *(to)* you true promiſe, as I have before written; and

be For Wretȳ And I beſeche Almyghti Ihu p^r^ſe^r^ve you Wretȳ at Hevenȳgh'm on ye vij day off May &c.

your oune coſyn

John Hevenyngham, knyght.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star,
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

I have given this Letter as ſhewing the method of educating young women of ſome family, but of ſmall fortune, by placing them in the families of the gentry, &c.

It is plain, from Sir John's deſiring that Margaret Paſton would take her for a time as a boarder, that the young perſon was not to have been in the line of a common ſervant.

LETTER XXXII.

To my Coſyn Margeret
Paſton be this letter
delyv,ed

RYGHT Worſhipfull Coſyn I Recomaund me unto you deſyryng to here of youre welfare And if it like you to her of my welfar at the makyng of this letter I was in good hele loved be God the cauſe of my wrytyng to you at this tyme is this praying you to ſend me word of youre welfare and how ye do of youre Sekneſſe and if the medycyn do you ony good that I ſend you wrytyng of laſt Thankyng you of the grete Frenſhip that ye have do to my moder w^t^ all my hert Alſo I pray you that ye wyll be good meyn to my Coſyn youre huſbond that he wyll ſe that my Fader be well Ruſeyd in his lyvelode for his worſhip & his p'fett Alſo prayng you to hold me exſchuſyd that

I beſeech Almighty Jeſu preſerve you. Written at Hevening-ham on the 7th day of May, &c.

Your own Couſin,

JOHN HEVENINGHAM, Knight.

Heveningham,
7 May,
Between 1450 and 1460. 28 and 38 H. VI.

He likewiſe ſhews a propriety of conduct in not taking her himſelf, as he was a widower; at the ſame time acknowledging that, had he had a wife, he ſhould have found no difficulty in providing properly for her in his own family.

Sir John Heveningham married Elizabeth the daughter and heir of Sir John Reddiſham, Knt. and he was living in 1459.

Autograph, Pl. XVIII. N° 10.

LETTER XXXV.

To my Couſin Margaret Paſton be this Letter delivered.

RIGHT worſhipful Couſin, I recommend me unto you, deſiring to hear of your welfare, and if it like you to hear of my welfare, at the making of this letter I was in good hele, loved be God. The cauſe of my writing to you at this time is this, praying you to ſend me word of your welfare, and how ye do of your ſickneſs, and if the medicine do you any good that I ſent you writing of laſt; thanking you of the great friendſhip that ye have done to my mother with all my heart.

Alſo I pray you that ye will be good mean to my couſin your huſband, that he will ſee that my father be well ruled in his livelihood for his worſhip and his profit.

Alſo praying you to hold me excuſed, that I have written no

I haue wryten no ofter to you for in good feth I had no leyſir for my lady hath be ſeke at london ner hand this quarter of this yere And that hath be grete hevineſſe to me But now bleſyd be god ſhe is amendyd & is in the [1] Contre agayne Alſo thankyng you of the grete chere that I had of you when I was w[t] you laſte w[t] all my herte prayng you of good Contenuanſe for I had neu[r] gretter nede than I haue now and if I had leyſer and ſpace J wolde write to you the cauſe No more at this tyme but the holy trenite have you in his kepyng Wryten at Wyndeſore the xxix day of June

Alſo Coſyn I pray you to ſende me ſum Norfoke threde to do a boute my [2] nekke to ryde w[t].

By youre pore Bede oman & Coſy n

[3] Alice Crane.

11¾ by 5.
Paper Mark
a Pair of ſheers.
Pl. xi. N° 11.

The writer of this Letter might be ſiſter (or daughter) of John Crane, the gentleman whoſe ſignature is to Letter XI. vol. i. p. 44. the date muſt remain quite uncertain between the years 1450 and 1460, which indeed is totally immaterial, as the Letter isgiven merely to ſhew that young women of good families were brought up as attendants upon ladies of rank, and ſerved them not only in the capacity of the modern "Lady's Woman," but were taught all kinds of needle works, paſtry, cookery, &c. thus qualifying them to become good mothers, frugal houſewifes, and uſeful members of the community. How ſincerely is it to be lamented that the daughters of the gentry of the firſt rank, and of tradeſmen, have now nearly the ſame education; every ſchool is a "Boarding School for Young Ladies," where dreſs and the polite accompliſhments (as they are

oftener to you, for, in good faith, I had no leiſure, for my lady hath been ſick at London, near hand this quarter of this year, and that hath been great heavineſs to me; but now, bleſſed be God, ſhe is amended, and is in the [1] country again.

Alſo thanking you of the great cheer that I had of you when I was with you laſt with all my heart, praying you of good continuance, for I had never greater need than I have now, and if I had leiſure and ſpace, I would write to you the cauſe.

No more at this time, but the Holy Trinity have you in his keeping. Written at Windſor the 29th day of June.

Alſo, Couſin, I pray you to ſend me ſome Norfolk thread to do about my [2] neck to ride with.

By your poor Beadſwoman and Couſin,

[3] ALICE CRANE.

Windſor,
29 June, between 1450 and 1460.
29 and 39 H. VI.

called) are indiſcriminately taught to the young lady of family and fortune, and to the *young lady who has neither family nor fortune.*

[1] It appears from this letter likewiſe that the lady with whom ſhe lived was retired from London to Windſor, apparently for the benefit of the air.

[2] Something like a modern tippet ſeems to be here meant to be put about her neck as a part of her riding dreſs.

[3] Autograph. Pl. XVIII. N° 8.

LETTER XXXIX.

To my Right Reverent And
my mooſt wurſchipful mayſtre
my mayſtre John Paſton

RIGHT wurſhipfull and my mooſte reuerent maſtre I recomaunde me unto yor goode mayſtreſhip like you to witte that on ^{1} childremaſſe daye there were moche people at Norwich at the Shire be cauce it was noyced in the ſhire that the undreſheriff had a writte to make a newe aleccon wherfore the people was greved be cauce they had labored ſo often ſeying to the ſheriff that he had the writte And pleynly he ſhulde not A wey unto the tyme the writte were redd the ſheriff anſwerd and ſeyd that he had no writte nor weſt who had it heruppon the people peacyd and ſtilled unto the tyme the ſhire was doone and aft^{r} that doone the people called uppon hȳ kylle hȳ heede hȳ And ſo John Dam w^{t} helpe of other gate hȳ out of the ſchire-

We ſee here a terrible inſtance of the ungovernable ſpirit of a multitude raiſed againſt the chief officer of the county for a ſuppoſed offence, for it does not appear that the Sheriff had ſecreted or delayed the writ; if he had done ſo, it is a treatment he might have expected in ſuch unſettled and ſanguinary times. Even in this modern age of refinement we ſee election diſputes conducted with an animoſity, by the friends of the different candidates, which in their cool and diſpaſſionate moments they are themſelves ſhocked at and aſhamed of.

hows

LETTER XXXVI.

To my right reverend and moſt worſhipful Maſter, my Maſter, John Paſton.

RIGHT worſhipful and my moſt reverend maſter, I recommend me unto your good maſterſhip, like you to weet that on [2] Childermas day there were much people at Norwich at the ſhire *(the county court)*, becauſe it was noiſed in the ſhire, that the Under-ſheriff had a writ to make a new election, wherefore the people was grieved becauſe they had laboured ſo often, ſaying to the Sheriff that he had the writ, and plainly he ſhould not away unto the time the writ were read. The Sheriff anſwered and ſaid, that he had no writ, nor wiſt who had it: hereupon the people peaced *(became peaceable)*, and ſtilled unto the time the ſhire was done, and after that done, the people called upon him, "kill him, head him," and ſo John Damme with help of others, gat him out of the ſhire-houſe, and with much

J. Paſton, from the contents of this letter, appears to have been a man of conſequence and reſpect in the county.

[2] Childermas day is the 28th of December, and the day of the week on which it fell was reckoned an unfortunate day throughout the following year to begin any undertaking, &c. The ſame ſuperſtition at this time reigns in many places, and amongſt many perſons even above the vulgar.

labour

hows And w^t moche labo^r brought hym unto [2] Sporyer rowe and ther the people mett a yenſt hȳ And ſo they a voided hȳ unto An hows and kept faſt the dore unto the tyme the meyer was ſent fore And the Sherif to ſtrenght hȳ and to convey hē A wey or ell he had be ſlayne Wherfor diu^rs of the thrifty men came to me deſiryng that I ſhulde writte unto yor maiſtreſhip to lete you haue undreſtandyng of the gidyng of the people For they be full ſory of this trowble and that it pleſe you to ſende hē yor advice how they ſhal be gided and rwled For they were p'poſed to A gathered an C or CC of the thriftyeſt men and to haue come up to the kyng to lete the kyng haue undreſtandyng of ther mok-kyng And alſo the people fere hē ſore of you and maſtre Berney be cauce ye come not home pleſe you that ye remembr the bill I ſent you at Hallowmeſſe for the place and londs at Boyton weche Cheſeman had in his ferme for v mark ther wol no man haue it above [3] xlvj^s viij^d for Alblaſtre and I haue do as moche therto as we can but we can not go A bove that And yet we can not lete it ſo for this yere w^t owte they haue it for v or vj yere I wrote to your maſtreſhip herof but I had non Anſwre Wherfor I beſeche you that I may haue an Anſwere of this be Tlwelthe for and we have an Anſwre of this be that tyme we ſhull enfeffe hē w^t all, etc. my right wurſhipfull and my mooſt reuerent maiſtre almyghty Jhu p'ſerve you and ſend you the victorye of yor el-

[2] Spurrier Row was what is now called the White Lyon Lane, and leads from the Caſtle Ditches to the Market-place; it took its name from the ſhops of thoſe who ſold ſaddles, bridles, ſpurs, &c. &c.

myes

labour brought him into [2] Spurrier row, and there the people met againſt him, and ſo they avoided him (*withdrew him for ſafety*) into an houſe, and kept faſt the door unto the time the Mayor was ſent for, and the Sheriff, to ſtrengthen him, and to convey him away, or elſe he had been ſlain; wherefore divers of the thrifty men came to me, deſiring that I ſhould write unto your maſterſhip, to let you have underſtanding of the guiding of the people, for they be full ſorry of this trouble; and that it pleaſe you to ſend them your advice how they ſhall be guided and ruled, for they were purpoſed to have gathered an hundred or two hundred of the thriftieſt men, and to have come up to the King, to let the King have underſtanding of their mocking.

And alſo the people fear them ſore of you, and of Maſter Berney, becauſe ye come not home.

Pleaſe you that ye remember the bill I ſent you at Hallowmas for the place and lands at Beighton which Cheeſeman had in his farm for five marks (3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) there will no man have it above [3] forty-ſix ſhillings and eight pence, for Alblaſter and I have done as much thereto as we can, but we cannot go above that, and yet we cannot let it ſo for this year, without they have it for five or ſix years; I wrote to your maſterſhip hereof, but I had none anſwer, wherefore I beſeech you that I may have anſwer of this by Twelfth (*6 January*) for and (*if*) we have an anſwer of this by that time we ſhall enfeoff him with all, &c.

My right worſhipful and my moſt reverend maſter, Almighty

[3] It appears by this, that the rents of lands were at this time declining, owing moſt probably to the unſettled ſtate of the nation.

myes as I truſte to Almyghty Ihu ye ſhall wretē at Norwich on Seyn Thom' Daye aftr Criſtemaſſe Daye.

yor pore ſrvāt and bedman

[4] R. Call.

12 by 6 ¾

Paper Mark
a Pair of Sheers.
Pl. xxii. N° 18.

[4] He afterwards married Margery, the daughter of J. Paſton. The date of this Letter is uncertain, but moſt probably towards the latter part of the reign of Henry VI.

LETTER XXXVII.

To my Mayſtr John Paſton in Ryght gret haſt.

SYR and it pleſe I was in my lord of Yorks howſe And I herde meche thynge more yanne my mayſtr wrytyth un to yow of I herde meche thynge in Fleteſtrede but Sr. my lord was wt the kynge and he veſaged ſo the mater y' alle ye kynges howſhold was and is aferd ryght Sore and my ſeyd lord hayth putte a bille to ye kynge and deſyryd meche thynge qwych is meche aftr ye Comouns deſyre and all is up on Iuſtic and to putte all thos yt ben indyted under areſt wt owte ſuerte or maynpryce and to be tryed be lawe as lawe wyll Jn ſo meche yt on Monday Sr. W. Oldhall was wt the kynge atte Weſtmr more yanne to houres and hadde of ye kynge good cher And ye kynge deſyryd of Sr W. Oldhall yt he ſhuld ſpeke to heſe Coſyn York yi he wold be good lord to John Penycock And yt

Jeſu preſerve you and ſend you the victory of your enemies, as I truſt to Almighty Jeſu ye ſhall.

Written at Norwich on St. Thomas's day after Chriſtmas day.

Your poor Servant and Beadſman,

RICHARD CALL.

Norwich,
St. Thomas Becket,
29 Dec. between 1450 and 1460.
29 and 39 H. VI.

Autograph. Pl. xviii. N° 9.

LETTER XXXVII.

To my Maſter, John Paſton, in right great haſte.

SIR, and it pleaſe, I was in my Lord of York's houſe, and I heard much thing more than my maſter writeth unto you of; I heard much thing in Fleet-ſtreet; but, Sir, my Lord was with the King, and he viſaged ſo the matter that all the King's houſehold was, and is, afraid right ſore, and my ſaid Lord hath put a bill to the King, and deſired much thing, which is much after the Commons deſire, and all is upon juſtice, and to put all thoſe that be indicted under arreſt, without ſurety or mainpriſe, and to be tried by law as law will, inſomuch that on Monday Sir William Oldhall was with the King at Weſtminſter more than two hours, and had of the King good cheer; and the King deſired of Sir William Oldhall that he ſhould ſpeak to his couſin York, that he would be good Lord to John Penycock, and that my Lord

my lord of York ſhuld wryte un to heſe ten'nce that they wold ſuffyr Peny Cocks Officers go and gader up hys rents fermes w^t^ jnne y^e^ ſeyd dukes lordſheps and S^r^. William Oldhall anſwherd ayen to ye kynge and preyed hym to hold my lord eſcuſyd for thow my lord wrotte under heſe ſeale of hys armes hys ten'ntez wyll not obeyet Jn Someche' Whanne Sr Thomas Hoo mette w^t^ my lord of Zork be yon ſent Albons ye Weſtern men felle upon hym and wold a ſlayne hym hadde Sr William Oldhall abe And y'for wold ye Weſt'ne men affalle up on y^e^ ſeyd Sr William and akyllyd hym And ſo he tolde the kynge Sr Borle Jonge and Ioſſe labour ſore for Heydon and Tudenh'm to Sr Wile' Oldhall and p'fyr more yanne to Thowſand Pownde for to have heſe good lordſhep And y'for it is noon oy^r^ Remedye but late Swhafham men be warned to mete w^t^ my ſeyd lord on Fryday neſt Comyng atte Pykenh'm on horſſebak in ye moſt goodly wyſe and putte ſum bylle un to my lord of Sr Thomas Tudenh'm Heydon and Prentys and crye owte on hem And y^t^ all the women of y^e^ ſame Towne be y^r^ alſo and crye owte on hem alſo and calle hem extorconners And pray my lord y^t^ he wyll do ſhap execucyons up on hem. And my Mayſt^r^ Counceyll yow that ze ſhuld meve ye Meyer and all ye Aldermen w^t^ all her Comoners to ryde ayens my lord And y^t^ y^r^ ben madde byllez and putte them up to my lord and late all ye Towne cry

This Letter from a favourer of the Duke of York's intereſt, muſt have been written between the years 1451 and 1456, at ſuch time as the King was under the direction and guidance of the Yorkiſts, as it affords us a variety of directions relative to their proceedings, and for their acquiring friends in the Houſe of Commons. Sir William Oldhall was Speaker of that Houſe in 1451 and 1452, but it does not appear that he was ſo at the time this Letter was written, though, from his being ſo particularly mentioned, if not Speaker, he was certainly a man of weight and conſequence there.

owte

of York ſhould write unto his tenants that they ſhould ſuffer Penycock's officers (*to*) go and gather up his rent farms within the ſaid Duke's Lordſhips; and Sir William Oldhall anſwered again to the King, and prayed him to hold my Lord excuſed, for though my Lord wrote under his Seal of his Arms his tenants will not obey it, inſomuch (*that*) when Sir Thomas Hoe met with my Lord of York beyond Saint Alban's the Weſtern men fell upon him and would have ſlain him, had *(not)* Sir William Oldhall have been, and therefore would the Weſtern men have fallen upon the ſaid Sir William, and have killed him, and ſo he told the King.

Sir Borle Yonge and Joſſe labour ſore for Heydon and Todenham to Sir William Oldhall, and proffer more than two thouſand pounds for to have his good Lordſhip, and therefore it is none other remedy but let Swaffham men be warned to meet with my ſaid Lord on Friday next coming at Pickenham on horſeback in the moſt goodly wiſe, and put ſome bill unto my Lord of Sir Thomas Todenham, Heydon, and Prentice, and cry out on them, and that all the women of the ſame town be there alſo, and cry out on them alſo, and call them Extortioners, and pray my Lord that he will do ſharp execution upon them. And my Maſter counſel you that ye ſhould move the Mayor and all the Aldermen with all their Commoners to ride againſt (*to meet*) my Lord, and that there be made bills, and put them up to my Lord, and let all the town cry out on Heydon,

J. Paſton alſo ſeems to have been a man of much conſideration and intereſt in the County of Norfolk, from the requeſts here made to him, and the inſtructions given him.

We have in this Letter a curious and natural deſcription of a ſtate divided by factions, from which the hiſtorian may draw a truer picture of the times here treated of, than from any ſketches hitherto exhibited.

Autograph. Pl. XVIII. N° II.

Todenham,

owte on Heydon Todenh'm Wyndh'm and Prentys And of all here fals mayntenours and telle my lord how meche hurte y^{ei} have don to ye Cetye and late y^{t} be don in the moſt lamentabyl wyſe for S^{r} but yf my lord here ſum fowle tales of hem And ſum hyddows noys and Crye by my feyth y^{ei} arne ellys lyke to Come to g'ce And y'for S^{r} remember yow of all theſe maters Syr alſo J ſpake w^{t} William Norwych and aſked hym aft^{r}. y^{e} lord Moleyns how he ſtod to my lord ward and he told me he was ſor owte of g'ce and y^{t} my lord of York lovyth hym nought William Norwych tolde me y^{t} he durſte undertake for to brynge yow un to my lord and make hym your ryght good lord And S^{r} my $Mayſt^{r}$ Counceyllyd yow y^{t} ze ſhuld not ſpare but gete yow heſe good lordſh' S^{r} be ware of Heydon for he wold deſtroyed yow be my Feyth y^{e} lorde Scales and Sr William Oldhall arne made Frendys S^{r} labour ze for be knyth of the Shire and And ſpeke to my $Mayſt^{r}$ Stapulton alſo y^{t} he be yt S^{r} all Swaf hm and they be warned wyll zeve yow here voyſes S^{r} ſpeke w^{t} Th' Denys And take heſe good Avys y'in S^{r} ſpeke to Denys y^{t} he avoyde hys garyſon atte Rydon for y' is non oy^{r} remedy but deth for Danyell And for all yos y^{t} arne indyted S^{r} labour ze to y^{e} Meyer y^{t} John Dam or Will Ienney be Burgeys for y^{e} Cetye of Norwych telle them y^{t} he may be yt as well as Yonge is of Bryſtow or y^{e} $Recordo^{r}$ is of London And as y^{e} recordour of Coventr is for y^{e} Cite of Coventre And it ſo in many places in Ingland alſo S^{r} thynk on Yernemonth y^{t} ze ordeyne y^{t} Iohn Ienney or $Limno^{r}$. or ſum good man be burgeys for Yernemouth ordeyne ze y^{t} Ienneys mown ben in

the

Todenham, Windham, and Prentice, and of all their falſe maintainers, and tell my Lord how much hurt they have done to the City, and let it be done in the moſt lamentable wiſe, for Sir but if (*unleſs*) my Lord hear ſome foul tales of them, and ſome hideous noiſe and cry, by my faith they are elſe like to come to grace, and therefore Sir remember you of all theſe matters.

Sir, alſo I ſpake with William Norwich, and aſked him after the Lord Molyns how he ſtood to my Lord ward, and he told me he was ſore out of grace, and that my Lord of York loveth him nought; William Norwich told me that he durſt undertake for to bring you unto my Lord, and make him your right good Lord; and Sir my maſter counſelled you that ye ſhould not ſpare, but get you his good Lordſhip.

Sir beware of Heydon for he would (*have*) deſtroyed you by my faith.

The Lord Scales and Sir William Oldhall are made friends.

Sir, labour ye for (*to*) be Knight of the ſhire, and ſpeak to my Maſter Stapleton alſo that he be it; Sir, all Swaffham, and (*if*) they be warned, will give you their voices; Sir, ſpeak with Thomas Denys and take his good advice therein; Sir, ſpeak to Denys that he avoid his Garriſon at Reydon, for there is none other remedy but death for Daniel, and for all thoſe that are indicted; Sir, labour ye to the Mayor that John Dam or William Jenney be Burgeſs for the City of Norwich, tell them that he may be it as well as Yonge is of Briſtol; or the Recorder is of London; and as the Recorder of Coventry is for the city of Coventry; and it (*is*) ſo in many places in England. Alſo, Sir, think on Yarmouth that ye ordain that John Jenney, or Lomnor, or ſome good man be Burgeſs for Yarmouth; ordain

ye

the p^rlement for they kun ſeye well S^r it wore wyſdam y^t my lord of Oxenford wayte on my lord of Yorke in good feyth good S^r thynke on all theſe maters meche more I hadde to wryte on to yow yf I kowde a remembryd me but I hadde no leyſer be my fyth hold me eſcuſed of my lewde rude wrytyng late John Dam be ware for ye lorde Moleyns and S^r late ye Cetye be ware for he wyll do hēm a velony but yf he may have heſe men And S^r yf he Come to Norwych loke y' be redy to wayte up on ye Mayer a good fellawſhep for it is ſeyd her y^t they arne but beſtys S^r. my Mayſt^r bad me wryte un to yow y^t ze ſhuld ſtore ye Mayer and alle ye Alderman to crye on my lord y^t they mown have Juſtyce of theſe men y^t be indyted And y^t my lorde wyll ſpeke un to ye kynge y^rof And S^r in div's partes in ye Towne y' my lorde Comyth y' wolde be ordeyned many porcons of Comeners to crye on my lord for Juſtice of theſe men y^t arne indyted and telle her nammes in ſpeciall Todenh'm Heydon Wyndh'm Prentys S^r I cende yow a Copy of the bylle y^t my lord of Yorke putte un to ye kynge, And S^r late Copyes go abowte the Cetye I now for ye love of God wyhe have yow in heſe kepyng Wretyn on Seynt Feyth daye in Haſt.

Be yowr Srvūt,

W. Wapte.

11 ½ by 17.

Paper Mark,
A Pillar and Croſs.
Pl. xxi. N° 7.

ye that Jenneys may be in the parliament for they can ſay well.

Sir, it were wiſdom that my Lord of Oxford wait on my Lord of York; in good faith, good Sir, think on all theſe matters; much more I had to write unto you, if I could have remembered me, but I had no leiſure by my faith, hold me excuſed of my lewd rude writing; let John Dam beware for the Lord Molyns; and, Sir, let the City beware for he will do them a villainy, but if (*unleſs*) he may have his men; and Sir, if he come to Norwich, look there be ready to wait upon the Mayor a good fellowſhip, for it is ſaid here that they are but Beaſts.

Sir, my Maſter bade me write unto you that ye ſhould ſtir the Mayor and all the Aldermen to cry on my Lord that they may have juſtice of theſe men that be indicted, and that my Lord will ſpeak unto the King thereof; and Sir, in divers parts in the town there (*where*) my Lord cometh, there would be ordained many portions (*parties*) of Commoners to cry on my Lord for juſtice of theſe men that are indicted, and tell their names, in ſpecial Todenham, Heydon, Windham, *(and)* Prentice. Sir, I ſend you a copy of the bill that my Lord of York put unto the King, and Sir, let copies go about the city enough, for the love of God, which have you in his keeping. Written on Saint Faith's day in haſte.

By your Servant,

WILLIAM WAYTE.

6th of October.
Between 1451 and 1456.
30 and 35 H. VI.

LETTER XXXVIII.

This lre be delyu^red to John Paſton beynge at london in the Jnnere in of the temple.

I Grete you well and ſende yo^u goddes bliſſȳg and mȳ and as touchȳg the mat^r wheche ye deſyryd my Coſyn Clere ſhulde write fore ſhe hath doo and I ſende you the Copy cloſed in this lre As for the enquerre I haue ſent by Pynchemo^r to enquere and ſent myn owen men to Will'm Bakton and don hem enquered in dyu^rſe placs and I can here no woord of noon ſuych enquerans I wot no^t what it menyth Roberd Hill was at Paſton thys wyke and the man that dwelled in bowres place is oute ther of and ſeid to Roberd he durſt no leng^r abyde ther in for Waryn Hermā ſeyth to hī it is his place As for cokets mat^r my dought your wyf told me yeſt^r even the mā that ſuyth him will now ſtonde to your awarde Bertilmow White is Condemnyd in For^rnecet court in xl. marc as it is ſeid It'm as for talfas the ſherevis hau be heſt to do all the favo^r thei may J ſente the p^rſon of ſeynt Edmūdes to Gilberd and he ſeide ther was Come a newe writ for to haue hī vp by the xv Day of ſeynt Martyn and

On the back of this Letter is written,

"It appereth by this lrē that S^r Jo. Faſtolf was of kynred to John Paſton ār."

The date of this Letter cannot be aſcertained farther than that it was written between 1444, when Sir William Paſton died, and 1459, the year in which Sir John Faſtolf deceaſed.

It contains nothing material, but I think it throws light upon the character of Agnes Paſton, ſhewing her in the light of one, who was ever attentive to her family and her

LETTER XXXVIII.

This Letter be delivered to John Paſton, being at London, in the Inner Inn of the Temple.

I Greet you well, and ſend you God's bleſſing and mine, and as touching the matter which ye deſired my Couſin Clere ſhould write for, ſhe hath done, and I ſend you the copy cloſed in this Letter. As for the enquiry I have ſent by Pynchemore to enquire and ſent mine own man to William Bacton, and done him enquire in divers places, and I can hear no word of none ſuch enquirance, I wot not what it meaneth. Robert Hill was at Paſton this week, and the man that dwelled in Bowers place is out thereof, and ſaid to Robert he durſt no longer abide therein, for Waryn Herman ſayeth to him it is his place. As for Coket's matter, my daughter your wife told me yeſter even, the man that ſueth him will now ſtand to your award.

Bartholomew White is condemned in Forncet Court in 40 marks (26*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) as it is ſaid.

Item, as for Talfas, the Sheriffs have beheſt to do all the favour they may, I ſent the parſon of St. Edmund's to Gilbert, and he ſaid there was come a new writ for to have him up by the 15th

fortunes, and intereſted herſelf in having a proper proviſion made for her younger children. We ſhall ſee that the Duke of Norfolk afterwards claimed Caiſter, and laid a regular ſiege to it.

There are one or two expreſſions in this Letter which I do not exactly underſtand.

Autograph. Pl. II. N° 19.

The Lady Boys mentioned in this Letter was Sibilla, widow of Sir Roger Boys, of Honing; ſhe was living in 1450.

and how caly hadde ben at hem and deſired to carye vp talfas on his owen Coſt and yeue hem goode wages It'm John Oſbern ſeide to me this Day that he ſuppoſed thei will no^{t} haue hī vp be forn Eſtern and Margerete talfas ſeide to me the ſame day that men tolde hire that he ſhulde neu^{r} hau ende till he wer at london and aſked me Counſell whed^{r} ſhe myte yeue the ſherevys ſylu^{r} or non And I tolde hire if ſhe dede J ſuppoſed ſhe ſhulde fynde hem the more frendly It'm as for horwelbur I ſende you a bill of all the reſcyts ſyn the deth of your fader and a Copy wrete on the bak how your fad^{r} lete it to ferme to the ſeide Gurnay I wulde ye ſhulde write Gurnay and charge hī to mete w^{t} yo^{u} fro london warde and at the leſt weye lete hī purveye x lī for owyth be my reknyng at myhelmeſſe laſt paſſed be ſyde your faddes dette xviij li. xiiij^{s} viij^{d} if ye wolde write to hī to brynge ſuerte for your fady's dette and myn And pay be dayes ſo y^{t} the mā myte leven and paye vs I wolde for yeue hī of the olde arrerags x li. and he myte be mad to paye xx marc be yer on that Condicon I wolde for yeue hī x li. And ſo thynketh me he ſhulde hau cauſe to p'ye for your fad^{r} and me and was it leten in my fad'es tyme I fele by Roberd his wif is right loth to gon thens ſhe ſeide that ſche had leu^{r} J ſhulde haue all her gode aft^{r} her day than thei ſchulde go out ther of It'm John Dam teld me that ye lady Boys will ſelle a place called Halys but he ſeith ſche ſpeketh it p'vyly and ſeith it is no^{t} tayled as John Dam kno wech will ſhe hath ſeide as largely of oy^{r} thȳgs y^{t} hath no^{t} be ſo It'm he tolde me as he herd ſeyn Ser John

Faſtolf

day of Saint Martin, and how Caly had been at home, and desired to carry up Talfas on his own coſt, and give him good wages.

Item, John Oſbern ſaid to me this day that he ſuppoſed they will not have him up before Eaſter, and Margaret Talfas ſaid to me the ſame day, that men told her that he ſhould never have end till he were at London, and aſked me counſel, whether ſhe might give the Sheriffs ſilver or none, and I told her if ſhe did, I ſuppoſed ſhe ſhould find them the more friendly.

Item, as for Horwelbury I ſend you a bill of all the receipts ſince the death of your father, and a copy written on the back how your father let it to farm to the ſaid Gurney; I would ye ſhould write (*to*) Gurney and charge him to meet with you from Londonward, and at the leaſt way let him purvey ten pounds for (*he*) oweth by my reckoning at Michaelmas laſt paſt, beſide your father's debt, 18*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* if ye would write to him to bring ſurety both for your father's debt and mine, and pay by days ſo that the men might live and pay us, I would forgive him of the old arrearages ten pounds, and (*if*) he might be made to pay 20 marks (13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) by year, on that condition I would forgive him ten pounds, and ſo thinketh me he ſhould have cauſe to pray for your father and me, and was it let in my father's time. I feel by Robert, his wife is right loth to go thence, ſhe ſaid that ſhe had lever (*rather*) I ſhould have all her goods after her day than they ſhould go out thereof.

Item, John Dam told me that the Lady Boys will ſell a place called Hales, but he ſaith ſhe ſpeaketh it privily, and ſaith it is not tayled (*entailed*), as John Dam know, which will ſhe hath ſaid as largely of other things that hath not been ſo.

Item, he told me as he heard ſaid, Sir John Faſtolf hath ſold

Helleſdon

Faſtolf hath ſold Heylyſdon to boleyn of london And yf it be ſo it ſemeth he will ſelle more wherfor I p'ye you as ye will haue my loue and my bliſſ'yg y^t ye will helpe and do your deu^r that ſumth'yg wer p'chaſed for your ij bretheren I ſuppoſe y^t Sr John Faſtolf and he wer ſpake to wolde be glader to lete his Kenſem̄e hau p^rte than ſtraunge m̄e aſay h̄i in my name of ſuych placa as ye ſuppoſe is moſt Cler it is ſeid in this Contre y^t my lord of Norfolk ſeith ſer John Faſtolf hath youen h̄i Caſtr and he will hau pleynly I ſende yo^u a bill of Oſbern hand whech was the anſuer of the ſheref and John of Dam Jon brynge me my lre hom with you and my Coſyn Cler is Copy of her lre and the Copy of the reſeyth of Horwelbury And recomaunde me to lomno^r and tell h̄i his beſt be loued fareth well but ſche is not yet Come to Norwich for thei deye yet but not ſo ſor as thei dede And God be wyth you Wret̄e at Norwych in right gret haſt the xvj day of Novembr.

By your moder,

Anneys Paſton.

11 ½ by 11.

Paper Mark,
A Bull.
Pl. xxii. N° 16.

I E T.

Helleſdon to Boleyn of London, and if it be ſo, it ſeemeth he will ſell more, wherefore I pray you, as ye will have my love and my bleſſing, that ye will help and do your devoir that ſome thing were purchaſed for your two brethren; I ſuppoſe that Sir John Faſtolf, and (*if*) he were ſpoke to, would be gladder to let his Kinſmen have part than ſtrange men; aſſay him in my name of ſuch places as ye ſuppoſe is moſt clear.

It is ſaid in this country that my Lord of Norfolk ſaith Sir John Faſtolf hath given him Caiſter, and he will have *(it)* plainly. I ſend you a bill of Oſbern's hand, which was the anſwer of the Sheriff and John of Dam.

John, bring me my Letter home with you, and my couſin Clere's copy of her Letter, and the copy of the receipt of Horwellbury, and recommend me to Lomner, and tell him his beſt beloved fareth well, but ſhe is not yet come to Norwich, for they die yet, but not ſo ſore as they did, and God be with you. Written at Norwich, in right great haſte, the 16th day of November.

By your Mother,

AGNES PASTON.

Norwich, 16th of November,
Between 1444 and 1459.
23 and 38 H. VI.

LET-

LETTER XXXIX.

To my Right worchepful
huſbond John Paſton be this
delyverid in haſt.

RIGHT worchepful huſbond I Comaund me to yow. J pray yow that ye wol do bye ij doſeyn trenchors for I Can none gete in this town Alſo I pray yow that ye wol ſend me a booke wyt chardeqweyns that I may have of in the monynggs for the Eyeres be not holſom in this town therfor J pray yow hertely lete John Suffeld bryng it hom wyt hym. No more but the blyſſid Ternyte have yow in heſe kepyng And ſend yow good ſped in all yowre maters. Wrete on Sent leonard even.

My uncle Phelyppe commaund hym to yow and he hath be ſo ſeke ſith that I come to Redh'm that I wend he ſhuld never a aſkapid it nor not is leke to do but if he have redy help and therfore he ſhal into Suff this next weke to myn aunt for there is a good Feſician and he ſhal loke to hym. My Lady Haſtyngs told me that Heydon hath ſpoke to Geffrey Boleyn of London and is a greid wytht hym that he ſhuld bargeyn

I have copied this Letter as containing a recipe againſt bad air; but whether or not Cardamoms are meant I cannot tell, they are ſaid to be warm and attenuating, and to comfort the head and ſtomach, and, therefore, I ſhould ſuppoſe, proper to be taken in a morning as a preſervative againſt the effects of bad air.

The fair leaves of Artichokes, when blanched and rendered leſs bitter, are likewiſe called Chards; theſe as being flat might be kept in a Book, and in that ſtate brought from

LETTER XXXIX.

To my right worſhipful huſband John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I commend me to you, I pray you that ye will do buy two dozen trenchers, for I can none get in this town; alſo I pray you that ye will ſend me a Book with Chardeqweyns that I may have of in the morning, for the air be not wholeſome in this town, therefore I pray you heartily let John Suffield bring it home with him.

No more, but the bleſſed Trinity have you in his keeping, and ſend you good ſpeed in all your matters. Written on St. Leonard's even.

My uncle Philip commends him to you, and he hath been ſo ſick ſince that I came to Reedham, that I wend he ſhould never have eſcaped it, nor not is like to do, but if (*unleſs*) he have ready help, and therefore he ſhall into Suffolk this next week, to mine aunt, for there is a good Phyſician, and he ſhall look to him.

My Lady Haſtyngs told me that Heydon hath ſpoken to Jeffrey Boleyn of London, and is agreed with him that he

from foreign parts ready for uſe, as we had no Artichokes till long after this time in England. Theſe were accounted very wholeſome; it is probably therefore that theſe are the things mentioned.

Margaret Paſton's uncle Philip Berney died in 1453, therefore this Letter muſt be written about that time.

Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

bargeyn wy^{t} Sr Iohn Faſtolff to bye the man^{r} of Blyklyng as it were for hymſelff and if Boleyn byet in trowght Heydon ſhal have it.

Yo^{r}.

M. P.

I cam to Norwiche on Sowlemeſday.

11 ½ by 8.

Paper Mark,
A Bull.
Pl. xxii. N° 16.

LETTER XL.

To my Right wurſhipfull hoſbond Iohn Paſton be yis delyv'yd in haſt.

RIGHT worſhipfull Hoſbond I recōmawnd me to yow prayīg yow to wete y^{t} I ſpak yiſtirday w^{t} my Suſter and ſhe told me y^{t} ſhe was ſory y^{t} ſhe myght not ſpeke w^{t} yow or ye yede And ſhe deſyrith if itt pleaſed yow y^{t} ye ſhuld yeve ye Jantylman y^{t} ye know of ſeche langage as he myght fele by yow y^{t} ye wull be wele willȳg to ye mat^{r} y^{t} ye know of For ſhe told me y^{t} he hath ſeyd befor yis tym y^{t} he cōſeyvid y^{t} ye have ſett but lytil y^{r}by Wherefor ſhe prayth yow y^{t} ye woll be here gode brother and y^{t} ye myght have a full anſwer at yis tym whedder it

ſhall

ſhould bargain with Sir John Faſtolf to buy the manor of Blickling, as it were for himſelf, and if Boleyn buy it, in truth Heydon ſhall have it.

I came to Norwich on Soul maſs day (*2d of November.*)

Yours,

MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,
Sunday, 5th of November,
1452. 32 H. VI.

LETTER XL.

To my right worſhipful huſband John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I recommend me to you, praying you to weet that I ſpake yeſterday with my ſiſter, and ſhe told me that ſhe was ſorry that ſhe might not ſpeak with you ere ye yede (*went*); and ſhe deſired, if it pleaſed you, that ye ſhould give the Gentleman, that ye know of, ſuch language as he might feel by you, that ye will be well willing to the matter that ye know of; for ſhe told me that he hath ſaid before this time that he conceived that ye have ſet but little thereby; wherefore ſhe prayeth you that ye will be her good brother, and that ye might have a full anſwer at this time

ſhall be ya or nay for her moder hath ſeyd to her ſyth y^{t} ye redyn hens y^{t} ſhe hath no fanteſy y^{r}inne but y^{t} it ſhall com to A jape And ſeyth to her y^{t} y' is gode Crafte in dawbȳg And hath ſeche langage to her y^{t} ſhe thynk^{t} right ſtrange and ſo y^{t} ſhe is right wery y'of Wherefor ſhe deſyrith ye rather to have A full cōcluſyon y'inne ſhe ſeyth her full troſt is in yow and as ye do y'inne ſhe woll agre her y'to Mayſt^{r}. [1] Braklee be her yiſt^{r}day to have ſpoke w^{t} yow I ſpak w^{t} hym but he wold not tell me what his erond was it is ſeyd her y^{t} ye ceſc'ons ſhall be at Thetford on Sat^{r}day next komȳg and ther ſhall be my lord of Norff' and other w^{t} grette pupill as it is ſeyd oy^{r} tydyngs have we none yett The bliſſefull Trynyte have yow in his kepȳg Wretyn at Norwyche on ye Tewyſday next befor Candelmaſſe.

I p'y yow y^{t} ye woll vowcheſawf to remembr to p'vey a thīg for my nekke and to do make my gyrdill.

Yowris,

[3] M. P.

My Cos' [2] Crane recōmawnd^{t} her to yow and p'ytth yow to remēbr her mater &c. for ſhe may not ſlepe on nyghtys for hym.

11 ½ by 5 ¾.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. xxii. N° 13.

The converſation in this Letter muſt refer to ſome offer of marriage made to his ſiſter Elizabeth Paſton, who afterwards married Robert Poynings; and I ſhould ſuppoſe the Letter to have been written in January 1452-3, from the requeſt in it for him to buy his wife ſome ornament for her neck, as the ſame petition had been made in Letter XV. Vol. I. p. 71. which was dated April 1452, and probably not yet complied with.

[1] John Bracklee or Brackley, was a brother of the Convent of Grey Friars, or Friars Minors, in Norwich; he took a Doctor of Divinity's degree, and was a famous preacher.

whether it ſhall be yea or nay; for her mother hath ſaid to her ſyth (*ſince*) that ye ridden hence, that ſhe hath no fantaſy therein, but that it ſhall come to a jape (*come to nothing*); and ſaith to her that there is good craft in daubing; and hath ſuch language to her that ſhe thinketh right ſtrange, and ſo that ſhe is right weary thereof; wherefore ſhe deſireth the rather to have a full concluſion therein. She ſaith her full truſt is in you, and as ye do therein, ſhe will agree her thereto.

[1] Maſter Brackley was here yeſterday to have ſpoken with you; I ſpake with him, but he would not tell me what his errand was.

It is ſaid here that the Seſſions ſhall be at Thetford on Saturday next coming, and there ſhall be my Lord of Norfolk and others with great people, as it is ſaid.

Other tidings have we none yet, the bleſsful Trinity have you in his keeping. Written at Norwich on the Tueſday next before Candlemaſs.

I pray you that ye will vouchſafe to remember to purvey a thing for my neck, and to do make (*have made*) my girdle.

Yours,

[3] MARGARET PASTON.

My Couſin [2] Crane recommendeth her to you, and prayeth you to remember her matter, &c. for ſhe may not ſleep on nights for him.

Norwich, Tueſday 30th of January,
1452-3. 31 H. VI.

[2] Who the gentleman was, or what the important matter could be, which prevented her couſin Crane from ſleeping, muſt be left in doubt, unleſs ſome of my fair Readers, who ſhall do me the honour to peruſe theſe Letters, may have penetration enough to diſcover either the one or the other.

[3] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

LET-

LETTER XLI.

To my Right Wurſhipfull
Maiſter Iohn Paſton.

RIGHT wurſhipfull and myn eſpeciall good maiſtr I recomaund me to you wt all ſrvice and prayer to my power and like it you to wete that how be a full ſtraunge acte is paſſid agayn me in the higher ho' before the lords. Wherof I ſend you a Copie. neuertheleſſe I hope to god that it ſhal not paſſe in the Comon ho'. but me is be falle the moſt ſorwfull infortune that euer por man had ſtandyng in ſuych caſe as I do for my lordis the Cardenale and of Oxenford haf imp'ſoned my wif in the Countor. and how thei ſhal guyde hir forth god knowt. Which ſtandith to nygh myn hert if godds will were but wel J know that by thes vengeable malics don to hir and me thei wole be Content for Ingh'm lithe beſide that to take awey my wyues doughter out of Weſtmr to make an end of my wif if he can and alſo to areſt my ſruntz that I drede that ſhe nor I ſhal haf

I have given this curious Letter as a ſpecimen of the outrages committed by the great upon reſpectable gentlemen; for though the writer has put no name to his Letter, he appears to have been a man of property, and of ſome conſequence, and moſt probably had married an heireſs of fortune, as he mentions his wife's place in Norwich. There being an act of parliament paſſed, ſhews that he was a man of ſome conſideration.

At this time the moſt arbitrary methods were uſed to obtain the poſſeſſion of eſtates, and entries were made in the moſt forcible manner; though perhaps in this caſe there might be ſome proper reaſons for theſe proceedings under the direction of the Cardinal and Lord Oxford.

His wife's daughter was alſo moſt probably an heireſs, of whom Ingham had obtained the wardſhip, by which means he would demand a ſum of money on her marriage.

The Inghams were a moſt ancient and knightly family, ſituated at Ingham, in Norfolk, of which the male line in the capital branch had failed in 1344, this perſon was therefore ſome collateral iſſue.

no

LETTER XLI.

To my right worſhipful Maſter, John Paſton.

RIGHT worſhipful and mine eſpecial good maſter, I recommend me to you with all ſervice and prayer to my power, and like it you to weet that how be a full ſtrange act is paſſed againſt me in the higher houſe before the Lords, whereof I ſend you a Copy, nevertheleſs I hope to God that it ſhall not paſs in the Common houſe; but me is befallen the moſt ſorrowful infortune that even poor man had, ſtanding in ſuch caſe as I do; for my Lords the Cardinal and of Oxford have impriſoned my wife in the Counter, and how they ſhall guide her forth God knoweth, which ſtandeth too nigh mine heart, if God's will were, but well I know that by theſe vengeable malices done to her and me they will *(not q?)* be content, for Ingham lithe (*lieth*) beſide that to take away my wife's daughter out of Weſtminſter to make an end of my wife if he can, and alſo to arreſt my ſervants, that I dread that ſhe nor I ſhall have no creature to

The Cardinal here mentioned muſt have been John Kemp, firſt biſhop of Rocheſter, next of Chicheſter, then of London, from which ſee he was removed to York, and in 1452 became archbiſhop of Canterbury. In 1439 he was made Cardinal of St. Balbine, and a ſhort time before his death was removed to the cardinalſhip of St. Ruſine; theſe various preferments were briefly recorded in the following line,

"Bis Primas, ter Præſes, et bis Cardine functus."

He died very old, and very rich, in the beginning of the year 1453, and was buried in his own Cathedral.

John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, was beheaded in 1461. 1 E. IV.

The concluſion of this Letter conveys an inſinuation that the King was improperly fettered by the ruling of this Archbiſhop.

attend

no creature to attend us ne help us. And ſuych malice haf I neu^{r} herd of herbeforn'. And it is told me that beſide that thei wole diſpoil if any good thei Can fynde of myn in Norwich or Norff' and imp'ſone my ſ^{r}untz there Wherfore I lowly beſeche yor maiſt^{r}ſhip for our lords m^{r}cy that ye vouchſauff to ſoco^{r} theym in this neceſſite And if ony entree be made or ſhuld be made upon myn wifes place in Norwich that ye vouchſauff to ſoco^{r} my ſ^{r}untz and do ther jnne aftir yor wiſdam. For criſts love and ſeynt charite beſide this a frend and kynneſman of myn oon Rob't Clement of Betele hath writen to me that he is areſtid and like to be imp'ſoned bi a writte of dette take agayn hym upon an obligacon of C^{li} in which he and I and oth'r wer bounde to my lorde of Oxenford xiiij yeer agone. Wherof I haf many acquitaunces. Wherfore I p'y your good maiſt^{r}ſhip to ſend to the Shirreve that my ſaid kynneſman may ben eaſid and no retourne made ageyn hym but that he may anſwer the next tyme bi Attourney For truly that Writte was take oute in the end of the t'me aftir I was areſtid and aftir it was aperid to. J p'y your maiſt^{r}ſhip for godds ſake to be not diſpleſid ne wery to do for me in theſe mat'es of yor charite for I had lev' gif the ſaid Robt ſuych good litell if it be as I haf than he wer undone for me or ony man ellis that eu^{r} ded for me. And I hope if god vouchſaf that the mat^{r} may Come to reſon to ſauf hym harmles and all other w^{t} godds m^{r}cy eu^{r} p'yng you of yor maiſt^{r}ſhip and ſoco^{r} for godds love who eu^{r} kepe you for his m^{r}cy Wretyn in Flete the Wedneſday the ſecond weke of lent. Mor ou^{r} in

aug-

attend us nor help us; and ſuch malice have I never heard of heretofore; and it is told me that beſide that they will deſpoil, if any good they can find of mine in Norwich or Norfolk, and impriſon my ſervants there; wherefore I lowly beſeech your maſterſhip for our Lord's mercy that ye vouchſafe to ſuccour them in this neceſſity; and, if any entry be made or ſhould be made upon my wife's place in Norwich, that ye vouchſafe to ſuccour my ſervants, and do therein after your wiſdom for Chriſt's love and Saint Charity.

Beſide this, a friend and kinſman of mine, one Robert Clement of Beetley, hath written to me that he is arreſted and like to be impriſoned by a Writ of Debt, taken againſt him upon an obligation of an hundred pounds, in which he, and I, and others were bound to my Lord of Oxford fourteen years ago, whereof I have many acquittances. Wherefore I pray your good maſterſhip to ſend to the Sheriff that my ſaid kinſman may be eaſed, and no return made againſt him, but that he may anſwer the next time by attorney, for truly that Writ was taken out in the end of the term after I was arreſted and after it was appeared to.

I pray your maſterſhip for God's ſake to be not diſpleaſed nor weary to do for me in theſe matters of your charity, for I had lever (*rather*) give the ſaid Robert ſuch good, little if it be, as I have, than he were undone for me, or any man elſe that ever did for me; and I hope, if God vouchſafe that the matter may come to reaſon, to ſave him harmleſs, and all other with God's mercy, ever praying you of your maſterſhip and ſuccour for God's love, who ever keep you for his mercy.

Written in Fleet, the Wedneſday the ſecond week of Lent.

augmentyng of my ſorwe I wend my wif ſhuld a dyed ſith for aftir ſhe was areſtid ſhe labo'ed of hir child that ſhe is w't all waityng eith'r to dye or be delyu'ed and ſhe hath not gon viij weks quykke what ſhal be falle almighti god know't and ſhull diſpoſe m'cifully.

Aftirward my wif was ſum dele eaſid bi the labo' of the wardeyn of Flete for the curſed Cardenale had ſent hir to Newgate. God forgif his ſowle Now ſhe is take to baile til Tueſday. The Cardenale is dede and the kyng is relevid.

12 by 6 ¾.

LETTER XLIJ.

Vadat' I. P.

MOSTE criſten Kyng ryght hygh and myghty Prince and our mooſte redoubted ſouu'ayn lorde We recomaunde ws as humblye as we ſuffice unto your hygh excellence Where unto pleaſe it to wete that for ſo moche as we hyre and underſtand to our grettyſt ſorowe erthlye that our ennemyes of approuued experience ſuch as abyde and kepe theym ſylf under the whyng of your mageſtee Royall have throwen unto the ſame ryght ſtedyouſely and ryght fraudulentlye manye ambyguytees and doubtes of the fayth lygeaunce and dewtee that god knowyth we beere unto your hyghneſſe and have put theym yn as grete

Moreover in augmenting of my ſorrow, I wend my wife ſhould have died ſince, for after ſhe was arreſted ſhe laboured of her child, that ſhe is withall, waiting either to die or be delivered, and ſhe hath not gone eight weeks quick; what ſhall befall Almighty God knoweth, and ſhall diſpoſe mercifully.

Afterward my wife was ſome deal (*ſomewhat*) eaſed by the labour of the Warden of Fleet, for the curſed Cardinal had ſent her to Newgate, God forgive his ſoul! now ſhe is taken to bail till Tueſday. The Cardinal is dead, and the King is relieved.

The Fleet,
Wedneſday
21ſt of February, 1452-3.
31 H. VI.

LETTER XLII.

Vadatur J. P.

MOST Chriſtian King, right high and mighty Prince, and our moſt redoubted Sovereign Lord, we recommend us as humbly as we ſuffice unto your high Excellence, where unto pleaſe it to weet that for ſo much as we hear and underſtand, to our greateſt ſorrow earthly, that our Enemies of approved experience, ſuch as abide and keep themſelves under the wing of your Majeſty Royal, have thrown unto the ſame right ſtudiouſly and right fraudulently many ambiguities and doubts of the faith, legiance, and duty, that, God knoweth, we bear unto your Highneſs, and have put them in as great devoir as they could

deuoyr as they coude to enſtr'unge ws from your mooſte noble preſonce and from the favo^{r} of your goode gr'ce Whych goode gr'ce to ws ys and owe to be our ſing'ler and mooſte deſyred Yoie and conſolacon. We at thys tyme be comyng wyth gr'ce as your true and humble liege men toward your ſeyd hygh excellence to declare and ſhew therto at large owr ſayd fayth and ligeaunce entendyng wyth the mercye of Jhu yn the ſeyd comyng to put ws yn as diligent and hertye devoyr and dewtee as onye your lyege men on lyve to that at may au'nce or preferre the houno^{r} and Wellfare off the ſayd mageſte Royalle and the ſeurte of the ſayd moſt notable perſon the whych beſeche our bleſſed creature to proſper as grete honuo^{r} Yoie and felicite as eve^{r} had onye prince erthlye and to your ſayd hyghneſſe ſo to take accept and repute ws and not to pleſe to geve truſt or confidence unto the ſiniſtrez malicouſe and fraudulent laboures and Rapportes of our ſayd ennemyes unto our comyng to your ſayd moſte noble p'ſence Where unto we beſeche humblye that we may be admitted as your liege men to thentent to ſhow ws the ſame wheroff yerſtenday we wrote our l'res of our entent to the ryght Rev^{r}ent Fadre yn god the Archebyſshop of Caunt^{r}burye

your

On the margin of this Letter towards the bottom in a hand nearly coeval with the Letter itſelf, is written "M^{d}. q^{d}. dict. lr$\bar{e}$ dnor^{r} direct. Archiepc$\bar{o}$ Cant. eſt ap^{d}."—The paper is then unfortunately torn off, ſo that what followed is miſſing.

Enough however remains to inform us that the Letter to the Archbiſhop was from the Lords—that is I preſume from the Duke of York and the Lords in his party; and was, I ſuppoſe, a counterpart of what is contained in this Letter, which appears to have been a Copy of that ſent to the King, and ſent by ſome friend of J. Paſton's to him, and which, by the words of the direction "Vadatur J. P." ſeems to have been ſent to him under a ſolemn promiſe to be delivered.

As ſeveral Petitions and Remonſtrances were ſent from the Duke of York and his party, during

to enſtrange us from your moſt noble preſence, and from the favour of your good grace; which good grace to us is, and ought to be, our ſingular and moſt deſired joy and conſolation. We at this time be coming with grace, as your true and humble liege men, toward your ſaid high Excellence, to declare, and ſhew thereto at large, our ſaid faith and legiance, intending, with the mercy of Jeſu in the ſaid coming, to put us in as diligent and hearty devoir and duty as any your liege men alive to that at (*which*) may avance (*advance*) or prefer the honour and welfare of the ſaid Majeſty Royal, and the ſurety of the ſaid moſt notable Perſon, the which *(we)* beſeech our bleſſed Creator to proſper (*with*) as great honour, joy, and felicity as ever had any Prince earthly, and to your ſaid Highneſs ſo to take, accept, and repute us, and not to pleaſe to give truſt or confidence unto the ſiniſter, malicious, and fraudulent, labours and reports of our ſaid enemies unto our coming to your ſaid moſt noble preſence, whereunto we beſeech humbly that we may be admitted as your liege men, to the intent to ſhew us the ſame, whereof yeſterday we wrote our Letters of our intent, to the right reverend father in God, the Archbiſhop of Canterbury, your

during theſe civil conteſts, to the King, the exact date of this cannot be aſcertained, though it was probably during the chancellorſhip of John Kemp, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, between the years 1452 and 1454.

The addreſs of this Letter beginning with "Moſte Criſten Kyng" is very particular, nor do I remember ever before to have ſeen the words "Majeſte Royalle," ſo early uſed in an addreſs to the Sovereign; it is well drawn up, and the purport of it is loyal and manly; it ſeems too to have been ſent at a time when they ſuppoſed themſelves ſure of aſſiſtance, if we advert to the ſteadineſs of the concluding words,

"Whereynne we wolle perſeve' wyth the gr'ce of our lorde."

By ſending a duplicate to the King they ſeemed to doubt whether or no the Archbiſhop would inform his highneſs of their Letter addreſſed to him as Lord Chancellor.

your Ch'uncellr of England to be ſhewed to your ſayd hyghneſſe Whereoff forſomoch as we be not acerteyned whethyr our ſayd entent be by hys Fadrehode ſhewed unto your ſeyd goode gr'ce or not We ſende thereoff unto thys cloſed A cōp of our ſaid lres of our diſpoſicon toward your ſayd hygh excellence and the hounour and weele of the land. Whereynne we wolle perſev'e wyth the gr'ce of our lorde.

11 ½ by 8 ½.

LETTER XLIII.

To my welbelavyd Son
John Paſton.

SONE I grete yow well and ſend you godys blyſſȳg and myn and lete you wete that Rob't Hyll cam homward by Horwelle bery and Gurney tellyd hym he had byn at london for mony and kowd nat ſpedȳg and beheſtyd Rob't that he ſhuld ſend me mony be you I p'y for getyt not As ze com homward and ſpeke ſadly for j nothyr fermor And as for tydyngs Phylyppe Berney is paſſyd to God on Mūday laſt paſt wyt yᵉ grettes peyn that evyr I ſey man and on Tuyſday Ser

This Letter may be called a modern obituary, as it informs us of the death, and likewiſe of the manner of the death of two gentlemen of conſequence in the county of Norfolk.

Jon

Chancellor of England, to be ſhewed to your ſaid Highneſs, whereof for ſo much as we be not aſcertained whether our ſaid intent be by his fatherhood ſhewed unto your ſaid good grace or not; we ſend thereof unto this cloſed a Copy of our ſaid Letters of our diſpoſition towards your ſaid high Excellence, and the honour and weal of the land, wherein we will perſevere with the grace of our Lord.

Moſt probably written between 1452 and 1454. 30 and 33 H. VI.

LETTER XLIII.

To my welbeloved Son John Paſton.

SON I greet you well, and ſend you God's bleſſing and mine, and let you weet that Robert Hill came homeward by Orwellbury, and Gurney telled him he had been at London for money and could not ſpeeden, and beheſted Robert that he ſhould ſend me money by you; I pray forget it not as ye come homeward, and ſpeak ſadly (*ſeriouſly*) for another Farmer.

And as for tydings Philip [1] Berney is paſſed to God on Monday laſt paſt with the greateſt pain that ever I ſaw man; and on

[1] Philip Berney, of Caſton, Eſq. was third ſon of John Berney, Eſq. of Reedham, by Iſabel, daughter of Sir John Heveningham, knight, the immediate anceſtors of the preſent Sir John Berney, Bart. of Kirby Bedon.

Tueſday

Jon [2] Heny'gh'm zede to hys chyrche and herd iij maſſys and cam hom Agayn nevyr meryer and ſeyd to heſe Wyf that he wuld go ſey A lytyll devocion in heſe gardeyn and than he wuld [3] dyne And forth wyth he felt a feyntȳg in heſe legge and ſyyd don thys was at ix of ye clok And he was ded or none myn Coſyn Cler preyt you that ze lete no man ſe her letter wheche is in ſelyd undir my ſelle I p'y you that ze wyl pay your Brothir Will'm for iiij unc' and j half of ſylke as he payd wheche he ſende me by Will'm Tavyrner and brȳg wyt you j quarter of j unc' evyn leke of the ſame that j ſende you cloſyd in thys letter and ſey your brothyr Will'm that heſe hors hath j [4] farſeyn and grete Rennȳg ſorys in heſe leggis God have you in kepyng Wretyn At Norwyche on Sent Thom's evyn in grete haſt.

Be your modyr,

[5] A. Paſton.

11 ½ by 6.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

[2] Sir John Heveningham, knight, was lineally deſcended from Walter Heveningham, who reſided at Heveningham in Suffolk, ſo early as in the time of King Canute, 1017—1036. Thomas, the grandſon of Sir John, ſettled at Ketteringham, in Norfolk, whoſe deſcendant William Heveningham of the ſame place, was one of the Judges of the High Court of Juſtice, who tried their Sovereign King Charles I. This branch of this ancient family ended in his ſon, who died without iſſue male.

Tueſday Sir John [2] Heveningham yede (*went*) to his church and heard three maſſes, and came home again never merrier, and ſaid to his wife that he would go ſay a little devotion in his garden, and then he would [3] dine; and forthwith he felt a fainting in his leg and ſyyd (*ſit*) down; this was at nine of the clock, and he was dead ere noon.

My Couſin Clere prays you that ye let no man ſee her Letter, which is enſealed under my ſeal. I pray you that you will pay your brother William for four ounces and an half of ſilk as he paid, which he ſent me by William Taverner, and bring with you a quarter of an ounce even like of the ſame that I ſend you cloſed in this Letter; and ſay (*tell*) your brother William that his horſe hath one [4] farcy and great running ſores in his legs. God have you in keeping. Written at Norwich, on Saint Thomas's even in great haſte.

By your Mother,

[5] AGNES PASTON.

Norwich,
Friday, 6th of July,
1453. 31 H. VI.

[3] By this account it appears that the hour of dinner was between nine and ten o'clock in the forenoon.

[4] A diſorder ſomewhat ſimilar to the Leproſy in the human race.

[5] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 19.

LETTER XLIII.

To my Ritht wᵗchipfull
Mayſtr John Paſton be
yⁱˢ delyv'yd ī haſt.

RYTHT worchipfull hoſbond I recōmawnd me to yow p'yīg yow to wete yᵗ I have ſpoke wᵗ Newman for his [1] plaſe and I am thorow wᵗ hym y'for but he wold not lete it in no wyſe leſſe than v marc I told hym yᵗ ſekyrly ye ſhuld not know but yᵗ I hyrid it of hym for iij li. I ſeyd as for yᵉ noble I ſhuld payt of myn owyn purſe yᵗ yᵉ ſhuld no knowlech have y'of And yⁱˢ day I have had jnne ij Cartfull of hey and yoʳ ſtabyl ſhall be made I hope yⁱˢ next weke I kowd not gette no grawnt of hym to have yᵉ Warehows he ſeyth if he may in any wyſe forber itt her aftʳ ye ſhall have itt but he wull not grawnt itt in no cōvawt he hath grawntyd me yᵉ hows be twix yᵉ vowte and yᵉ warehows And yᵗ he ſeyd he grawntyd not yow And as for yᵉ Cham' yᵗ ye aſſygnyd to myn [2] Vnkyl god hath p'veyd for hym as hys will is he paſſyd to god on Monday laſt paſt at xj of yᵉ clok befor none And Sʳ John Hevenygh'm paſſyd to god on tewyſday laſt paſt hois ſowlys both god aſſoyle his ſekeneſſe toke hym on tewyſday at ix of yᵉ Clok befor none and be too

Though this Letter, like many others in this Collection, contains no matter of conſequence, yet as it furniſhes us with an inſtance of careful attention in the wife to her huſband's affairs, and ſhews her anxious deſire to have every thing in readineſs againſt his expected return, I think it will be agreeable to many of my readers.

[1] Newman's Place muſt have been a houſe of ſome conſequence in the City of Norwich

LETTER XLIV.

To my right worſhipful Maſter, John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I recommend me to you, praying you to weet that I have ſpoke with Newman for his [1] place, and I am thorough with him therefore, but he would not let it in no wiſe leſs than five marks (3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) I told him that ſekerly (*certainly*) ye ſhould not know but that I hired it of him for three pounds, I ſaid as for the noble (6*s.* 8*d.*) I ſhould pay of mine own purſe, that ye ſhould no knowledge have thereof; and this day I have had in two cartful of hay, and your ſtable ſhall be made I hope this next week. I could not get no grant of him to have the warehouſe; he ſaith if he may in any wiſe forbear it hereafter, ye ſhall have it, but he will not grant it in no covenant. He hath granted me the houſe betwixt the vowte (*vault*) and the warehouſe, and that he ſaid he granted not you.

And as for the chamber that ye aſſigned to mine [2] uncle, God hath purveyed (*provided*) for him as his will is; he paſſed to God on Monday laſt paſt, at eleven of the clock before noon, and Sir John Heveningham paſſed to God on Tueſday laſt paſt, whoſe ſouls both God aſſoil! his ſickneſs took him on Tueſday at nine of the clock before noon, and by two afternoon he was dead.

wich at this time, as the rent, then ſet upon it, was equivalent to a modern one of between thirty and forty pounds a year; and there being, when ſhe hired it, no ſtable ready fitted up, ſhews how few horſes were then kept in Cities, &c.

[2] Philip Berney, whoſe death was mentioned in the preceding Letter, was brother to Margaret Maultby, the mother of Margaret Paſton.

too aft^{r} none he was dedd I have begonne yor jnventar' y^{t} ſhuld have be made or y^{is} tym if I had ben well at eaſe I hope to make an ende y'of and of oy^{r} thyngs boy y^{is} next weke and ben in y^{t} oy^{r} place if god ſend me helth I muſt do p'vey for meche [3] ſtuff or I come ther for y^{r} is noy^{r} bords ne oy^{r} ſtuff y^{t} muſt neds be had or we Come ther' And Ric' hath gadderid butt lytill mony ſyth he come from yow I have ſent Iohn Norwod y^{is} day to Greſh'm Beſigh'm and matelaſk to gete als meche mony as he may the bliſſid t'nyte have yow in his kepīg Wr'tyn at Norwych on y^{e} [4] Utas day of Pet^{r} and Powll.

Yowrs,

[5] M. P.

11 ¼ by 6 ¾.

[3] This muſt here mean Houſehold Stuff, and I ſhould ſuppoſe that the boards required were thoſe uſed for long Tables, Forms, &c.

LETTER XLII.

Thys lett^{r} be delyverd
to Iohn Paſton dwelly^{n}
jn the inder in of the
Tempyll att London in haſt.

I Grete yow well and lete yow wete that thys day I was w^{t} my doughtyr yor wyfe & che was in good hele att the makyn of thys lett^{r} thankyd be god. & ſche lete yor ſuſtyr & me wete of a

lett^{r}

I have begun your Inventory that ſhould have been made ere this time, if I had been well at eaſe; I hope to make an end thereof, and of other things both this next week, and be in that other place, if God ſend me health. I muſt do purvey for much [3] ſtuff ere I come there, for there is neither boards nor other ſtuff that muſt needs be had ere we come there; and Richard hath gathered but little money ſince he came from you. I have ſent John Norwood this day to Greſham, Beſingham, and Matlaſke, to get as much money as he may. The bleſſed Trinity have you in his keeping. Written at Norwich, on the [4] Utas day of Peter and Paul.

Yours,

[5] MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,
Friday, 6th of July,
1453. 31 H. VI.

[4] The Octave, or eighth day following the feſtival.
[5] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

LETTER XLV.

This Letter be delivered to John Paſton dwelling in the Inner Inn of the Temple at London, in haſte.

I Greet you well and let you weet, that this day I was with my Daughter your wife, and ſhe was in good heel (*health*) at the making of this letter, thanked be God! and ſhe let your

Siſter

lett^{r} wheche ye ſent hyr that ye have be laboryd to for Ser Will'm Oldhall to have yor ſuſtyr & deſyryng in the ſeyd lett^{r} to have an Anſwer in ſchort tyme, who ſche wyll be demenyd in thys mater yor ſuſter Recomaundyt hyr to yow & thankyt yow hertyly that ye wyll remembyr hyr and lete hyr have knowleche ther of & p'yt yow that ye wyll do yor dever to bryng it to a good concluſyon for ſche ſeythe to me that ſche tryſtyt y^{t} ye wyll do ſo that it xall be bothe for hyr worchup and p^{r}fyt And as for me if ye can thynke that hys lond ſtandyt cler in as meche as I fele yor ſuſtyr well wyllyd ther to I hold me well content And as for the oblygacyon of the perſen of Marlynferthe wheche I ſent yow by Iohn Newman I p'y yow lete it be ſuyd And as for the parſon & lyndeſey they be A Cordyd and god have yow in kepyn and ſend yow hys blyſſyn and myn Wretyn at Norwyche on Pulver Wedneſday.

Be yor moder,

Augnes Paſton.

11 ¾ by 4 ½.

The exact date of this letter cannot be aſcertained, it was however moſt probably previouſly to 1454, as Elizabeth Paſton's brother, in his Letter to Lord Grey, tells him, "there is, and hath been divers times, late communications of marriages with divers Gentlemen not determined as yet, &c."

Sir William Oldhall was a Gentleman of large property in the County of Norfolk, and had been already married to, or afterwards did marry, Mary, daughter of William Lord Willoughby of Ereſby, by whom he left an only daughter and heir, Mary. The marriage here propoſed never took effect.

Sister and me weet of a letter which ye sent her, that ye have been laboured to for Sir William Oldhall to have your sister, and desiring in the said letter to have an answer in short time, how she will be demeaned in this matter.

Your Sister recommendeth her to you, and thanketh you heartily that ye will remember her, and let her have knowledge thereof, and prayeth you that ye will do your endeavour to bring it to a good conclusion, for she saith to me, that she trusteth that ye will do so, that it shall be both for her worship and profit; and, as for me, if ye can think that his Land standeth clear, in as much as I feel your Sister well willed thereto, I hold me well content.

And as for the Obligation of the Parson of Marlingford, which I sent you by John Newman, I pray you let it be sued; and as for the Parson and Lyndesey they be accorded, and God have you in his keeping, and send you his blessing and mine. Written at Norwich on Pulver-Wednesday.

By your Mother,

AGNES PASTON.

Norwich,
Ashwednesday,
6 March, 1453-4.
32 H. VI.

I have dated this Letter in 1453, though doubtfully.
Autograph. Pl. II. N° 19.
The Seal is octagonal, but the impression imperfect. See Letter LXXV.

LET-

LETTER XLVI.

Un to Ryth revr ent Sr and my good Mayſtr Iohn Paſton,

RYTH wurthy and wurchypfull Sr and my ryth good mayſtr I recomaunde me on to you thankyng you eurmore of your gret jentylneſs and good mayſtyrhod ſhewyd on to me at all tymys and ſpecyally now to my herthys eaſe qwyche on my part can nowt be rewardyd but my ſympyll ſeruice is eur redy at your comaundement ferthemor as for ye matr yt ye wete of I have laboryd ſo to my feydr yt your entent as for ye Jountor xal be fulfellyd And Sr I beſheche you ſethyn yt I do my part to fullefelle your wyll yt ye wolle ſhew me your good mayſtyrhod in here r chambyr as my full truſt js jn ſo moche yt jt xall nowth hurthe you nor non of youris And ye p'fite ther of xal be on to ye Avayle of my mayſtreſs your ſuſter and to me and to non odyr creature And alſo my mayſtreſs your modyr xall nouth be charchyd yc wt her bourd aftyr ye day of ye mariage but I to diſcharge her of here prſone And to eaſe me yt hat here chambyr may be non cōtradiccon And Sr I am redy & alwey wolle to prforme yt I have ſeyd on to you, &c. Ferthemor lykyd you to

This Letter, from a Lover to the brother of his Miſtreſs, ſeems dictated by good ſenſe, and a proper regard for the Lady; it ſhews his anxious wiſh that all preliminaries ſhould be ſettled to the ſatisfaction of the Lady's friends, and hints at his own impatience for a ſpeedy concluſion in the following expreſſive words, "as to my conceythe ye dayys be waxyn wonderly longe in a ſchorte tyme."

On the back of the Letter is written, in an ancient hand, "A l're ſomewhat touchyng a mariage yt ſhould have been betwen the wth in named John Clopton and Elizabeth Paſton ſole daughter to Willm Paſton Juſtice. Sed non cept effe'm."

wete

LETTER XLVI.

Unto (my) *right reverend Sir, and my good Maſter, John Paſton.*

RIGHT worthy and worſhipful Sir, and my right good maſter, I recommend me unto you, thanking you evermore of your great gentleneſs and good maſterhood ſhewed unto me at all times, and ſpecially now to my heart's eaſe, which on my part cannot be rewarded, but my ſimple ſervice is ever ready at your commandment; furthermore as for the matter that ye weet of, I have laboured ſo to my father that your intent as for the jointure ſhall be fulfilled; and Sir I beſeech you ſince I do my part to fulfil your will, that ye will ſhew me your good maſterhood in her [1] chamber as my full truſt is, inſomuch that it ſhall nought hurt you nor none of your's, and the profit thereof ſhall be unto the avail of my miſtreſs your ſiſter, and to me, and to none other creature.

And alſo my miſtreſs your mother ſhall not be charged with her board after the day of the marriage, but I to diſcharge her of her perſon; and to eaſe me that hath her chamber may be none contradiction.

And Sir I am ready, and always will to perform that I have ſaid unto you, &c.

John Clopton, Eſq. was one of thoſe convicted on ſuſpicion of receiving Letters from Queen Margaret with Sir Thomas Todenham, &c. before the Earl of Worceſter, in Feb. 1461, when all of them, except Clopton, were beheaded. He married Alice, ſiſter to Sir Robert Darcy, of Malden in Eſſex, and was alive in 1488. His father, Sir William Clopton, had eſtates at Long Melford, &c. in Suffolk.

[1] Perhaps it means, ſome Expences for the accommodation of the Bride.

wete I was a Thurſday laſt paſſyd at Cavendyſhe to dylyver An aſtate to Wentworth in ye londe y^t^ was my brothyr [2] Cavendyche As I tolde you wan I was laſt w^t^ you and ther I ſpak w^t^ [2] Crane and he be ſowthe me y^t^ I wolde ſende ov^r^ to my mayſtreſs your modyr for his excuſe for he myth nowth be w^t^ here at this tyme but on y^e^ ſat^r^day I eſt^r^ne wyke he wolle nouth fayll to be w^t^ her ſo he Counſellyd me y^t^ I and my brothyr [3] Denſton xulde mete w^t^ hym there and ſo w^t^oute your better avyſe I and my brothyr purpoſe us to be w^t^ you ther at y^t^ tyme for y^e^ ſonner ye levyr me for as to my Conceythe ye dayys be waxyn wondyrly longe in a ſcorte tyme q̄werfor I beſheche you ſende me your auyſe how ye wolle have me rewlyd, &c.

No more I wrythe to you at yis p^r^ſent tyme but be ſchechyng you to recomaunde jn ye lowlyeſt wyſe and ye t'nite p'ſerve you body and ſowle Wretȳ w^t^ my chauncery hand in ryth gret haſte on ye Fryday be forn Palmeſoneday.

Your,

[4] John

Clopton.

11 ½ by 6 ¼.

[2] The Cavendiſhes and Cranes were reſpectable families in the County of Suffolk.

[3] John Denſton, Eſq. of Denſton in Suffolk, married Catharine, daughter of Sir William Clopton, and ſiſter to John Clopton.

Furthermore liketh you to weet, I was on Thurſday laſt paſt at Cavendiſh to deliver an eſtate to Wentworth in the land that was my brother [2] Cavendiſh's, as I told you when I was laſt with you, and there I ſpake with [2] Crane, and he beſought me that I would ſend over to my miſtreſs your mother for his excuſe, for he might not be with her at this time; but on the Saturday in Eaſter-week he will not fail to be with her, ſo he counſelled me that I and my brother [3] Denſton ſhould meet with him there, and ſo without your better advice, I and my brother purpoſe us to be with you there at that time, for the ſooner the lever (*better for*) me, for, as to my conceit the days be waxed wonderly (*wonderfully*) long in a ſhort time, wherefore I beſeech you ſend me your advice how ye will have me ruled, &c.

No more I write to you at this preſent time, but beſeeching you to recommend *(me)* in the lowlieſt wiſe, and the Trinity preſerve you body and ſoul.

Written with my chancery hand in right great haſte on the Friday before Palm Sunday.

Your

[1] JOHN CLOPTON.

Friday 12 April,
1454. 32 H. VI.

[1] Autograph. Pl. xviii. N° 12.

NUMBER XLVIII.

Maryage Artycles betwix Anneys Paſton &c. on ye one partie and Willm Clopton Squyer on ye other partie.

THIS indenture made betwix Anneys that was ye Wyfe of William Paſton Iohn Paſton hir ſone and [1] Iohn Dam on ye one partie and Will'm [2] Clopton Squyer on ye other partie Witneſſeth that accord is take attwyn ye ſeid parties that Iohn Clopton ſone and heir of ye ſeid William Clopton be ye g'ce of god ſhall wedde Elizabeth the dought' of ye ſeid Anneys For which mareage the ſeid Anneys &c. ſhall paye to ye ſeid Iohn Clopton CCCCth marc in hand of lawfull mony of England And ovr that yf the ſeid mareage be holdyn with the ſeid Anneys the ſeid Anneys ſhall bere ye coſtages y'of ye day of ye Weddyng wt ſwech [3] chaumb'yr as ſhall be to ye pleſir of ye ſeid Anneys And ye ſeid William Clopton ſhall do his feffees make a lawfull eſtate to ye ſeid Will'm of londs ten'tz rentz and ſ'vyſez to ye yerly value of XL l. ovr all chargez born to have and to hold to hym t'me of his lyfe wtoutyn empechement of Waſt the remaindr y'of to ye ſeid Iohn and Elizabeth and to his heirs male of hir body lawfully begotyn wtoute empechemēt of Waſt wtynne xij dayes aftr ye ſeid Weddyng And ovr that withynne ye ſeid xij dayes the

On the back of the above Indenture in a more modern hand is written, "The mariage wthyn mentioned never toke effect for the ſame Elizabeth was after firſt maryed to Robt Ponyngs arm, and then to Sr George Browne knyght." I thought this Draught of a Marriage Settlement too curious to be omitted, particularly as I have been requeſted by ſome Perſons of conſiderable eminence in the law to publiſh every circumſtance that might throw light upon legal Forms, or upon the legal Tranſactions of the times here treated of.

ſeid

NUMBER XLVII.

Marriage Articles betwixt Agnes Paſton, &c. on the one part and William Clopton, Eſq. on the other part.

THIS Indenture, made betwixt Agnes that was the wife of William Paſton, John Paſton her ſon, and [1] John Damme on the one part, and William [2] Clopton, Eſquire, on the other part, Witneſſeth that accord is taken atwyn (*between*) the ſaid parties, that John Clopton, ſon and heir of the ſaid William Clopton, by the grace of God ſhall wed Elizabeth the daughter of the ſaid Agnes, for which marriage the ſaid Agnes, &c. ſhall pay to the ſaid John Clopton 400 marks (266*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) in hand of lawful money of England, and over that (*beſides*) if the ſaid marriage be holden with the ſaid Agnes, the ſaid Agnes ſhall bear the coſtages thereof the day of the wedding, with ſuch [3] chambering as ſhall be to the pleaſure of the ſaid Agnes; And the ſaid William Clopton ſhall do (*take care that*) his Foeffees make a lawful eſtate to the ſaid William of lands, tenements, rents, and ſervices to the yearly value of 40*l.* over all charges borne, to have and hold to him (*for the*) term of his life without impeachment of waſte, the remainder thereof to the ſaid John and Elizabeth, and to his heirs male of her body lawfully begotten, without impeachment of waſte, within twelve days after the ſaid wedding.

And over that within the ſaid twelve days the ſaid John ſhall

[1] John Damme was a Burgeſs in Parliament for the City of Norwich, and likewiſe Recorder.

[2] The Cloptons were a family of conſequence.

[3] This word is here uſed in a good ſenſe, and probably means joyous entertainment and feaſting—but it may mean certain expences to be borne, or Goods, &c. to be bought on this occaſion.

ſeid Iohn ſhall do lawfull eſtate to be made to y^e^ ſeid William of londs ten'tz rentz and ſ^r^vyſez to ye yerly value of xL m'rc ov^r^ all charges born to have and hold to y^e^ ſeid William t'me of his lyfe w^t^oute empechement of Waſt the remayndre therof to y^e^ ſeid Elizabeth to have and hold to hir t'me of hir lyfe w^t^oute empechement of Waſt Alſo it is accorded that y^e^ ſeid William ſhall make eſtate of all ye reſidue of his londs which he is ſeſid of or any other man to his uſe to ſwech p'ſonys as the ſeid John ſhall name to ye uſe of y^e^ ſeid Iohn Alſo the ſeid Iohn Clopton ſhall do lawfull eſtate to be made to y^e^ ſeid Elizabeth of londs tentz rentz and ſ'oyſez to ye yerly value of xxx li. ov^r^ all chargez born to have and hold to hir duryng ye lyfe of the ſeid William And moreov^r^ the ſeid Iohn p'mytteth and enſureth be ye feith of his body that he ſhall leve ov^r^ the xL li. worth lond aboveſeid to his heirs and iſſue male of ye body of y^e^ ſeid Elizabeth begotyn londes in fee ſymple or in taill to ye yerly value of xL m'rc in * cas y^e^ ſame iſſue male be gov^r^nyd to the ſeid Iohn as the ſone oweth to be to the fadir And &c.

11 ¾ by 8 ½
Paper Mark
a Snake
Pl. xxii. N° 11.

* The concluding part of the Settlement ought not to eſcape our obſervation, where the 40 Marks per annum ſettled on the iſſue male is to depend upon the good behaviour of ſuch iſſue to the father.

do (*cauſe*) lawful eſtate to be made to the ſaid William of lands, tenements, rents, and ſervices to the yearly value of 40 marks (26*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) over all charges borne to have and hold to the ſaid William (*for*) term of his life, without impeachment of waſte, the remainder thereof to the ſaid Elizabeth to have and hold to her (*for*) term of her life, without impeachment of waſte.

Alſo it is accorded that the ſaid William ſhall make eſtate of all the reſidue of his lands which he is ſeized of, or any other man to his uſe to ſuch perſons as the ſaid John ſhall name, to the uſe of the ſaid John.

Alſo the ſaid John Clopton ſhall do (*cauſe*) lawful eſtate to be made to the ſaid Elizabeth of lands, tenements, rents, and ſervices to the yearly value of 30*l.* over all charges borne, to have and hold to her during the life of the ſaid William.

And moreover the ſaid John promytteth (*promiſeth*) and enſureth by the faith of his body that he ſhall leave, over the 40*l.* worth (*of*) land aboveſaid, to his heirs and iſſue male of the body of the ſaid Elizabeth begotten, lands in fee ſimple or in tail to the yearly value of 40 marks (26*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) in [4] caſe the ſame male iſſue be governed to the ſaid John as the ſon oweth to be to the father. And, &c.

About
1454. 32 H. VI.

LET-

LETTER XLVIII.

To my right and welbeloved frend Iohn Paſton Squier.

RIGHT truſty and welbeloved frend I grete you wel And for as mych as I have underſtande yt ze have do take a diſtreſſe of c'tayn beſtes upon c'tayn land which I ſtande infeffed in in ye town of [1] Pagrave for what cauſe I knowe not wherfor I pray you yat ze wyll make deliv'ance ageyn of the ſaid beſtes and if any thing ze can axe be dute of right ſetteth a day and lete yor. evydences and right be ſhewed and I ſhall aſſigne conceill of myn to be ye to ſe it and all yat reſon or lawe wyll I wyll be right glad ze have and otherwiſe I trowe ze wold not deſire And if ze wyll do this I wyll be wel paied and elles ze conſtreyn me to po'veye other wiſe as lawe may gyde me oure lord have you in gov'nance writen at Walſyngh'm the xvij day of May.

Youre frend,

The Lord [2] Scales.

11½ by 4½.

The Contents of this Letter ſhew my Lord Scales to be a Gentleman, and a man of honour, it betrays nothing of the tyranny of an ancient Baron, but breathes the ſentiments of a friend. At the bottom, in a hand of the time, is written, "Li't. āā mīch. xxxiij°." So that it fixes it to the 33d of Henry VI.

LET.

LETTER XLVIII.

To my right and well beloved Friend, John Paſton, Eſq.

RIGHT truſty and well beloved friend, I greet you well, and for as much as I have underſtood that ye have do take (*cauſed to be taken*) a Diſtreſs of certain beaſts upon certain land, which I ſtand infeoffed in, in the town of [1] Palgrave, for what cauſe I know not; wherefore I pray you that ye will make deliverance again of the ſaid beaſts, and if any thing ye can aſk be (*a*) duty of right, ſet a day, and let your Evidences and right be ſhewed, and I ſhall aſſign Counſel of mine to be there to ſee it; and all that reaſon or law will, I will be right glad ye have; and otherwiſe, I trow, ye would not deſire; and if ye will do this, I will be well paid (*ſatisfied*); and elſe (*or*) ye will conſtrain me to purvey otherwiſe, as law may guide me. Our Lord have you in governance. Written at Walſingham, the 17th day of May.

Your Friend,

The Lord [2] SCALES.

Walſingham,
Friday, 17 May,
1454. 32 H. VI.

[1] Palgrave by Swaffham, where J. Paſton had a manor.

[2] Thomas Lord Scales, whoſe daughter and heir afterwards married Sir Anthony Widville.—The Letter is written by his Secretary.

Autograph. Pl. I. N° 12.

LETTER XLIX.

To John Paſton be yis
lett^r delyv^ryd.

SOON I grete zow wel w^t goddys blyſſyng and myn and I latte zow wette y^t my Coſyn Cler wrytted to me y^t ſche ſpake w^t Schrowpe aftyr y^t he had byen w^t me at Norwyche and tolde her what cher y^t I had made hym and he ſeyde to her he lyked wel by ye cher y^t I made hym he had ſwyche wordys to my Coſyn Cler y^t leſſe yan ze made hym good cher and zaf hym wordys of conforth at london he wolde no mor ſpeke of ye matyr my Coſyn Cler thynkyth y^t it wer a foly to forſake hym leſſe yan ze knew of on owdyr as good or better and I haue aſſayde zowr ſuſter and I fonde her neu^r ſo wylly to noon as ſche is to hym zyf it be ſo y^t his londe ſtande cleer. J ſent zow a lett^r by Brawnton for ſylke and for yis matyr befor my Coſyn Cler wrote to me ye qwyche was wrytten on ye Wednyſday nexzt aftyr mydſomer day. Sr Harry ynglows is ryzth beſy a bowt Schrowpe for on of his dozther's. I prey zow for zette nozth to brynge me my mony fro Horwelbery as ze com fro London edyr all or a grete parte ye dew dette was at Cryſtemeſſe laſt paſte no thynge a lowyd vij li. xiiij^s viij^d and at yis mydſomer it is v li. mor and thow

We find about this time ſeveral alliances propoſed to the family for their daughter Elizabeth, none of which as yet took place. This of Scroope ſeems to have been approved not only by the young Lady herſelf, but likewiſe by her mother and friends, though condi-

LETTER XLIX.

To John Paſton be this Letter delivered.

SON, I greet you well, with God's bleſſing and mine, and I let you weet that my Couſin Clere writted (*wrote*) to me that ſhe ſpake with Scroope after that he had been with me at Norwich, and told her what cheer that I had made him; and he ſaid to her he liked well by the cheer that I made him.

He had ſuch words to my Couſin Clere, that, leſs than (*unleſs*) ye made him good cheer and gave him words of comfort at London, he would no more ſpeak of the matter.

My Couſin Clere thinketh that it were a folly to forſake him leſs than ye know of one other as good or better; and I have aſſayed your Siſter, and I found her never ſo willing to none as ſhe is to him: if it be ſo that his land ſtand clear.

I ſent you a Letter by Brawnton for ſilk, and for this matter before my Couſin Clere wrote to me, the which was written on the Wedneſday next after Midſummer day.

Sir Harry Ingloſe is right buſy about Scroope for one of his daughters.

I pray you forget not to bring me my money from Horwelberry, as ye come from London, either all or a great part; the due debt was at Chriſtmas laſt paſt, nothing allowed, 7*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* and at this Midſummer it is 5*l.* more; and though I allow him

conditionally that a better could not be obtained. She afterwards married Robert Poynings, &c.

Autograph. Pl. II. N° 19.

thow j a low hym all his aſkyng it is but xxvj^{s} vj^{d} leſſe but I am nozth ſo avyſyth zytt as for ye frer he hath byen at ſent benetts and at Norwyche and made grete bowſte of ye ſewte y^{t} he hath azens me and bowzthe many boxes to what jntent J wett neu^{r} it is wel doen to be war at london in drede gyf he bryng ony ſyſe at ſent Margarets tyme. I kan no mor but almyzty god be owr good lorde who have zow eu^{r} in kepyng. Wryten at Oxnede in grete haſt on ye ſatyr next aftyr myd-ſomer.

By yowr modyr,

A. P.

11 ½ by 4 ¾.

Paper Mark,
A Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. xxii. N° 15.

LETTER L.

To my Coſyn Iohn Paſton be thys letter delyv'ed.

TRUSTY and weel be loved Coſyn I comaunde me to zow deſyryng to here of zowre weelfare and good ſpede in zowre matere ye qwech I prey god ſend zow to his pleſaunce and

all his aſking, it is but 1*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* leſs, but I am not ſo adviſed yet. As for the Friar he hath been at Saint Benet's, and at Norwich, and made great boaſt of the ſuit that he hath againſt me, and bought many boxes, to what intent I weet never; it is well done to beware at London, in dread if he bring any ſyſe (*writ of Aſſiſe*) at Saint Margaret's (20*th July*) time.

I can no more, but Almighty God be our good Lord, who have you ever in keeping. Written at Oxnead in great haſte, on the Saturday next after Midſummer.

By your Mother,

AGNES PASTON.

Oxnead,
Saturday, 29th of June,
1454. 32 H. VI.

LETTER L.

To my Couſin John Paſton be this Letter delivered.

TRUSTY and well beloved Couſin, I commend me to you, deſiring to hear of your welfare and good ſpeed in your matters, the which I pray God ſend you to his pleſaunce (*pleaſure*) and to your heart's eaſe.

Couſin,

and to zoure hertys eaſe Coſyn I lete zow wete y^{t} ^{x} Scrope hath be in this Cuntre to ſe my Coſyn zoure ſuſtyr and he hath ſpoken w^{t} my Coſyn zoure moder and ſche deſyreth of hym y^{t} he ſchuld ſchewe zow ye endentures mad be twen ye knyght y^{t} hath his dowter and hym whethir y^{t} Skrop if he were maried and fortuned to have children if tho childern ſchuld enheryte his lond or his dowt^{r}. ye wheche is maried Coſyn for yis cauſe take gode hede to his endentures for he is glad to ſchewe zow hem or whom ze wol a ſygne w^{t} zow and he ſeith to me he is ye laſt in ye tayle of his lyflode ye qweche is CCCL marke and better as Watkyn Shipd'm ſeith for he hath take a compt of his liflode dyv's tymes and Scrop ſeith to me if he be maried and have a ſone an eyre his dowt^{r}. yat is maried ſchal have of his liflode L marke and no more and y'fore Coſyn me ſemeth he were good for my Coſyn zowre ſuſtyr w^{t} yat ye myght gete her a bettyr and if ze can gete a bett^{r}. I wold avyſe zow to labo^{r}. it in as ſchort tyme as ze may goodly for ſche was nev^{r}. in ſo gret ſorow as ſche is now a dayes for ſche may not ſpeke wt. no man ho ſo ev^{r}. come ne not may ſe ne ſpeke w^{t}. my man ne w^{t}. ſ'vauntes of hir moderys but y^{t}. ſche bereth hire an hand oy'wyſe yan

In ſeveral Letters we have ſeen Agnes Paſton in the character of an active woman, attentive to her children, and her own private affairs, but in this ſhe appears to no great advantage as a mother, her treatment of a daughter, now a woman, ſeems harſh and unſeemly, even for the age in which it happened, though then the parental authority was carried to very different lengths to what it is in theſe days.

We have before ſeen in the Articles under which the Earl of Warwick took charge of the King's perſon, that he required, and had granted, a power to chaſtiſe his royal pupil.

This ſame Lady in her directions to Maſter Greenfield (in Letter XXXV. Vol. i. p. 143.) prays him to beaſh her Son Clement well, "if he hath not done well, nor will not amend."

Couſin, I let you weet that [1] Scroope hath been in this Country to ſee my Couſin your Siſter, and he hath ſpoken with my Couſin your Mother, and ſhe deſireth of him that he ſhould ſhew you the Indentures made between the Knight that hath his Daughter and him, whether that Scroope, if he were married and fortuned to have children, if thoſe children ſhould inherit his land, or his Daughter, the which is married.

Couſin, for this cauſe take good heed to his Indentures, for he is glad to ſhew you them, or whom ye will aſſign with you; and he ſaith to me he is the laſt in the tayle (*entail*) of his livelihood, the which is 350 marks (233*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) and better, as Watkin Shipdham ſaith, for he hath taken a compt (*an account*) of his livelihood divers times; and Scroope ſaith to me if he be married and have a Son, an heir, his Daughter that is married ſhall have of his livelihood 50 marks (33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) and no more; and therefore Couſin me ſeemeth he were good for my Couſin your Siſter with that *(without that)* ye might get her a better; and if ye can get a better I would adviſe you to labour it in as ſhort time as ye may goodly, for ſhe was never in ſo great ſorrow as ſhe is now a days, for ſhe may not ſpeak with no man, whoſoever come, ne not (*neither*) may ſee nor ſpeak with my man, nor with ſervants of her Mother's, but that ſhe beareth

Theſe manners of the age therefore being conſidered, we ſhall be the leſs ſurpriſed at this now ſeemingly ſevere behaviour towards her Daughter. Elizabeth Clere's reflections upon it do her credit, and aſſure us that ſhe thought the young Lady's treatment from her Mother very improper, as tending to force her into meaſures which might occaſion much uneaſineſs to her family and friends.

[1] There was a noble family of this name at this time, but whether the gentleman here mentioned was a branch of it or not, does not appear. He was probably the ſon of Millicent, the wife of Sir John Faſtolf.

her

ſhe menyth, and ſche hath ſen Eſterne ye moſt p^t^. be betyn onys in ye weke or twyes and ſom tyme twyes on o day and hir hed broken in to or thre places.—whefor Coſyn ſche hath ſent to me be frere Newton in gret Counſell and preyeth me y^t^. I wold ſend to zow a lett^r^. of hir hevynes and prey yow to be hir good brothyr as hir troſt is in zow and ſche ſeith if ze may ſe be his evydences y^t^. his childern and hire may enheryten and ſche to have reſonable joynture ſche hath herd ſo mech of his birth and his condicons y^t^. and ze will ſche will have hym whethyr y^t^. hir moder wil or wil not, not w^t^ſtandyng it is tolde hir his p'ſone is ſymple for ſche ſeyth men ſhull have ye more deyute of hire if ſche rewle hire to hym as ſche awte to do Coſyn it is told me y^r^ is a goodly man in yowre jnne of ye qweche ye fadyr deyed litte and if ze thynk y^t^. he were better for hir yan Scroop it wold be laboured and yif Scroop a goodly anſwere y^t^ he be not put of tyl ze be ſure of a bettyr for he ſeid whan he was w^t^. me but if he have ſom Counfortable anſwer of zow he wil no more laboure in this mater be cauſe he myght not ſe my Coſyn zoure Suſtyr and he ſeyth he myght a ſee hire and ſche had be bettyr yan ſhe is and y^t^. cauſeth hym to demyr y^t^. hir moder was not weel willyng and ſo have J ſent my Coſyn zowre moder word Wherfore Coſyn thynk on this mateer for ſorow oftyn tyme cauſeth women to be ſet hem oy'wyſe yan yei ſchuld do and if ſche where in yat caſe j wot weel ze wold be ſory Coſyn I prey zow brenne yis letter y^t^. zoure men ne non oy' man ſe it for and my Coſyn zowre moder knew y^t^ j had ſent

yow

her an hand otherwiſe than ſhe meaneth; and ſhe hath ſince Eaſter the moſt part been beaten once in the week or twice, and ſometimes twice on a day, and her head broken in two or three places. Wherefore, Couſin, ſhe hath ſent to me by Fryar Newton in great counſel, and prayeth me that I would ſend to you a Letter of her heavineſs, and pray you to be her good brother, as her truſt is in you; and ſhe ſaith if ye may ſee by his Evidences that his childern and hers may inherit, and ſhe to have reaſonable jointure, ſhe hath heard ſo much of his birth and his conditions, that and (*if*) ye will ſhe will have him, whether that her mother will or will not, notwithſtanding it is told her (*that*) his perſon is ſimple *(plain)*, for ſhe ſaith men ſhall have the more dainty of her, if ſhe rule her to him as ſhe ought to do.

Couſin, it is told me there is a goodly man in your Inn, of the which the father died lately, and if ye think that he were better for her than Scroope, it would be laboured, and give Scroope a goodly anſwer, that he be not put off till ye be ſure of a better; for he ſaid when he was with me but if (*unleſs*) he have ſome comfortable anſwer of you, he will no more labour in this matter, becauſe he might not ſee my Couſin your Siſter, and he ſaith he might have ſeen her and (*if*) ſhe had been better than ſhe is; and that cauſeth him to deem that her mother was not well willing; and ſo have I ſent my Couſin your mother word; wherefore, Couſin, think on this matter, for ſorrow often time cauſeth women to beſet them otherwiſe than they ſhould do, and if ſhe were in that caſe, I wot well ye would be ſorry: Couſin, I pray you burn this Letter, that your men nor none other men ſee it; for and (*if*) my Couſin your Mother knew

yow yis letter ſche ſchuld nev^r love me No more j wrighte to 2ow at yis tyme but holy goſt have zow in kepyng Wretyn in haſt on Seynt Peterys day be candel lyght.

Be youre Coſyn,

[2] Elizabeth Clere.

11 ¾ by 10 ¾.
Paper Maak,
Part of a Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

[2] Elizabeth Clere was the daughter and heir of Thomas Uvedale, Eſq. of Tacolneſton, in Norfolk, and now the widow of Robert Clere, of Ormeſby, Eſq. She died in 1492.

LETTER LI.

Un to my Rygh
worſhypfull Maſtyr
Paſton be thys byll
delyv'ryd in haſte.

RYGHT truſty and well belovyd Maſt^r. I recomãde me un to yow deſyrȳg to her of yor good p'ſp'ite and well-far and as towchyng for Ser Phylyp [1] Wentforde he rood on to

The Ward here mentioned I ſhould ſuppoſe was Thomas Faſtolf of Ipſwich, of whom Sir John Faſtolf (in his Letter to J. Paſton, dated 11th of November 1454) ſo much wiſhed to have obtained the guardianſhip. This tranſaction might have happened previouſly to Sir John's Letter in June 1454, or in the December following in the ſame year, as Saint John Baptiſt's day is in the former, St. John Evangeliſt's day in the latter month, but the exact date is immaterial.

The Letter preſents us with a curious inſtance of the methods uſed to obtain and ſecure the perſons of minors, and ſhews us the warlike manner in which thoſe travelled, who ſuppoſed they ſhould meet with any reſiſtance.

london

that I had ſent you this Letter, ſhe ſhould never love me. No more I write to you at this time, but Holy Ghoſt have you in keeping. Written in haſte, on Saint Peter's day, by candle light.

By your Couſin,

ELIZABETH CLERE.

St. Peter's Day,
Saturday 29th of June,
1454. 32 H. VI.

Autograph. Pl. xix. N° 14.

LETTER LI.

Unto my right worſhipful Maſter Paſton, be this bill delivered in haſte.

RIGHT truſty and well beloved Maſter, I recommend me unto you, deſiring to hear of your good proſperity and welfare; and as touching for Sir Philip [1] Wentford, he rode

[1] The taking of a Child like the Ward with them, when moſt probably the real Ward was conveyed another way, was an ingenious artifice to deceive thoſe who might lay in wait to attack them, and endeavour to get poſſeſſion of his perſon.

[1] Though this name is here written Wentford, I rather believe it means Sir Philip Wentworth, of Nettleſted, in Suffolk, who married Mary, the daughter of Lord Clifford.

london ward up on Seynt Ion ys day and on the ev^{n} afor he ſent to my Maſt^{r}. for to have ſum of hys me' for to ryd w^{t}. hym to Colcheſt^{r}. and for be cawſe he ſhulde not have no ſuſpeſion to me j rod myſelf and a felaw w^{t}. me and he rood with an C. hors w^{t}. [2] jakks and [3] ſaletts and ruſty [4] habyrjons and ther rood w^{t}. hym Gyboun of Debnē' and Tympyrle and all the ffelaſhyp y^{t}. yey cowd make and Gyboun ſeyde y^{t}. he wolde endyte as many as he cowde und'ſtonde y^{t}. wer of ye tod^{r}. p'ty and longe Bernard was yer alſo and he mad Ser Phylyp Wentforde to torne agey' and maad ev'y me' to beende her bowys and lyth down of her hors for to wyte and ony ma' wolde come ageynſtē and he ſeyde how he ſhulde not let hys wey nor for Ser John Faſtolf nor for Paſton nor for noon of hem all and as for ye ward he was not y^{r} but y^{r} was had anod^{r}. Chyld lyk hym and he rood next hym and wha' y^{t}. he was ij myle be zonde Colcheſt^{r}. he ſent hym hoom agey' with a cer tey meyny and Ser Phylyp Wentforde and Gyboun of Debnē' and Tymp'le and Bernard they took a ma' of Stratford a Sowt^{r} and hys name ys p^{r}ſoun and yey enqueryd hym of ev'ry manys name of the tod^{r}. p'ty and he tolde hem as many as he cowde and yey bad hy' enquer fery^{r} for to knowe all for yey deſyryd of hym for to enquer as fer as he cowde and he ſhulde have well for hys labor No mor to yow at thys tyme but ye holy goſt have yow in hys kepyng Wretyn at Hadley ye Sat'day aft^{r}. Seynt John ys

[2] The Jack or Jacket, was a military veſtment, calculated for the defence of the body, compoſed of linen ſtuffed with cotton, wool, or hair quilted, and commonly covered with leather.

[3] A Salet was a light Helmet of various conſtruction.

day

unto London ward upon Saint John's day, and on the evening afore he ſent to my Maſter for to have ſome of his men for to ride with him to Colcheſter, and for becauſe he ſhould not have no ſuſpicion to me, I rode myſelf and a fellow with me; and he rode with an hundred horſe with [2] Jackets and [3] Salets, and ruſty [4] Haubergeons; and there rode with him Guybon of Debenham, and Timperley, and all the fellowſhip that they could make; and Guybon ſaid that he would indict as many as he could underſtand that were of the other party; and long Bernard was there alſo, and he made Sir Philip Wentford to turn again, and made every man to bend their bows and alight down off their horſe, for to weet and (*if*) any man would come againſt them; and he ſaid how he ſhould not let his way neither for Sir John Faſtolf nor for Paſton, nor for none of them all.

And as for the Ward he was not there, but there was had another Child like him, and he rode next him, and when that he was two miles beyond Colcheſter, he ſent him home again with a certain meny (*fellowſhip*); and Sir Philip Wentford, and Guybon of Debenham, and Timperley, and Bernard, they took a man of Stratford, a Sowter (*a ſhoemaker*), and his name is Pearſon, and they enquired (*of*) him of every man's name of the other party; and he told them as many as he could; and they bad him enquire further for to know all; for they deſired of him for to enquire as far as he could, and he ſhould have well for his labour. No more to you at this time, but the Holy Ghoſt have you in his keeping. Written at Hadley, the Saturday

[4] The Haubergeon was a coat compoſed either of plate or chain-mail without ſleeves. For a fuller account, and view of theſe the Reader is referred to Mr. Groſe's accurate "Treatiſe on Ancient Armour and Weapons." quarto, 1785.

after

day and I beſeeche yow hertyly recoma'de me to my Maſtr. Alblaſtr.

By yor man,

5 R. Dollay.

12 by 6½.

Seal on a heater ſhield,
A Cheveron between
three roundles.
Pl. xxiii. N° 9.

5 R. Dollay ſeems to have been a ſervant belonging to ſome one of the party oppoſite to J. Paſton, in J. Paſton's intereſt.
Autograph. Pl. xix. N° 15.

LETTER LII.

To my truſty and wele belovid
Iohn Paſton Squyer be this
l're deliv'ed.

TRUSTY and welebelovid frend y comaund me to zow certifying zow yt. and zor Suſtyr be not zit maried y truſt to god y know yt. where ſhe may be maried to a gentylman of iij C. m'rc of lyvelod ye which is a grete gentylman born and of gode blode and yf ze yink yt. y ſhall labore ony ferder y'ynne y p'y zow ſend me word by ye bringer of ys l're for y have ſpoke wt. ye p'ties and yey have granted me yt. yey wolle p'cede no ferder y'ynne tyll y ſpeke wt. hem azen And y'fore y p'y

zow

after Saint John's day, and I beſeech you heartily recommend me to my Maſter Alblaſter.

By your man,

5 R. DOLLAY.

Hadley, in Suffolk,
Saturday 29th of June,
or 28th of December 1454.
32 or 33 H. VI.

I rather think this Letter was written in December, as the Saturday was the day after St. John the Evangeliſt.

LETTER LII.

To my truſty and well beloved John Paſton, Eſquire, be this Letter delivered.

TRUSTY and well beloved Friend, I commend me to you, certifying you that and (*if*) your Siſter be not yet married, I truſt to God I know that where ſhe may be married to a gentleman of 300 marks (200*l.*) of livelihood, the which is a great gentleman born, and of good blood, and if ye think that I ſhall labour any farther therein, I pray you ſend me word by the bringer of this Letter, for I have ſpoken with the parties, and they have granted me that they will proceed no farther therein till I ſpeak with them again, and therefore I pray you

ſend

zow ſend me word in haſt how y^t ze wylle be deſpoſed y'ynne and god have zow in hys kepyng wettin at Ampthill ye xj day of July laſt paſt.

By Edmond Grey, lotd of Haſtpnges, Waiſford, & of Ruthyn.

11 ½ by 3 ½.

Edmund ſucceeded his grandfather, Reginald Lord Grey, of Ruthyn, in 1441. In 1464 he was appointed Lord Treaſurer to Edward IV. and the next year created Earl of Kent. He died in 1489. The barony of Ruthyn is now in the Earl of Suſſex.

Autograph. Pl. xix. N° 13.

Theſe Letters diſcover to us the great attention paid by families to the proper diſpoſition of the female branches in ſuitable and advantageous marriages.

LETTER LIII.

Dñs de Grey.

RIGHT worſhipfull and my ryght gode lord j recomand me to yowr gode lordſhip and where as it pleaſyd yowr lordſhip to dyrecte yowr letter to me for amaryage for my por ſuſt^r. to a jantylman of yowr knowleth of CCC marc lyflod in cas ſhe wer not maryd wherfor j am gretely bownd to do yor lordſhip ſervyſe forſoy^t my lord ſhe is not maryd ne jnſurid

ſend me word in haſte how that ye will be diſpoſed therein, and God have you in his keeping. Written at Ampthill, the 11th day of July laſt paſt.

By EDMOND GREY, LORD of HASTYNGS, WAIPFORD, and RUTHYN.

Ampthill,
Thurſday, 11th of July,
1454. 32 H. VI.

Pl. XIV. N° 8.
N. B. At the bottom of this Letter in the hand-writing of John Paſton, is the following memorandum,
"Lib'at. p'. Will'. Aleyn Valett'. dĕi dĕi xiiij die Julij A°. xxxij°. H. VI."
Seal of red wax, the impreſſion defaced, but it has a neat braid of ſtraw round it.
Pl. XXIII. N° 6.

LETTER LIII.

The Lord Grey.

RIGHT worſhipful and my right good Lord, I recommend me to your good Lordſhip, and whereas it pleaſed your Lordſhip to direct your Letter to me for a marriage for my poor Siſter to a gentleman of your knowledge of 300 marks (200*l.*) livelihood, in caſe ſhe were not married; wherefore I am greatly bound to do your lordſhip ſervice; for ſooth my Lord ſhe is not married, nor inſured to no man; there is and

to noman ther is and hath be dyvers tymys and late comunycacon of ſeche maryags wyth dy'vs jantylmen not det'mynyd as yett And whedder the jantylman yat yowr lordchip menith of be on of hem or nay j dowth And wher as yor. ſeyd letter ſpecyfyith that j ſhuld ſend yow word whedder j thowght ye ſhuld labo^{r}. ferther in the mater or nay jn that my lord I dare not preſwme to wryte ſo to yow wythowte j knew the Gentylmans name notwythſtandȳg my lord j ſhall take uppe on me wyth the avyſe of other of here frendys that ſhe ſhall nother be maryd ner inſwryd to no creatwr ne forther p'ſede in no ſeche mater befor the feſt of the Aſſup'con of owr lady next comyg dwrȳg whyche tyme yowr lordſhip may ſend me if itt pleaſe yow certeyn informac'on of the ſeyd Gentylmanys name and of the place and contrey wher hys lyfflod lyth and whedder he hath any chylder and after j ſhall demene me in the mater as yowr lordſhip ſhall be pleaſyd For in gode feyth my lord it were to me grette joy that my ſeyd pore ſuſter were acordīg to hier pore degre marijd be yowr Avyſe truſtȳg thanne that ye wold be here gode lord Ryght wurchipfull and my Ryght gode Lord j beſeche Almyghty God to have yow in his kepȳg wrete att Norwych the xv day of jull.

11 ¾ by 5.

T E C=

The above is tranſcribed from a Copy of the Original Letter (in J. Paſton's own hand) which he had ſent to Lord Grey; it was preſerved with the preceding one of his lordſhip to J. Paſton. He ſhews himſelf in this Letter not only a kind brother, but one who was attentive to his Siſter's welfare, for though this alliance came recommended by a nobleman, who aſſured him that the gentleman propoſed was not only well

hath been, divers times and late, communication of ſuch marriages with divers gentlemen not determined as yet, and whether the gentleman that your Lordſhip meaneth of be one of them or nay I doubt; and whereas your ſaid Letter ſpecifieth that I ſhould ſend you word whether I thought you ſhould labour farther in the matter or nay; in that my Lord I dare not preſume to write ſo to you without I knew the gentleman's name; notwithſtanding, my Lord, I ſhall take upon me with the advice of other of her friends, that ſhe ſhall neither be married nor inſured to no creature, nor farther proceed in no ſuch matter before the feaſt of the Aſſumption of our Lady *(15th of Auguſt)* next coming, during which time your Lordſhip may ſend me, if it pleaſe you, certain information of the ſaid gentleman's name, and of the place and country where his livelihood lieth, and whether he hath any children; and after I ſhall demean me in the matter as your Lordſhip ſhall be pleaſed; for in good faith, my Lord, it were to me great joy that my ſaid poor ſiſter were, according to her poor degree, married by your advice, truſting then that ye would be her good Lord.

Right worſhipful and my right good Lord I beſeech Almighty God to have you in his keeping. Written at Norwich, the 15th day of July.

Norwich,
Monday, 15th of July,
1454. 32 H. VI.

well born, but had an handſome livelihood, yet he would give no poſitive anſwer till he knew for whom the application was made, and in what County his Eſtate was ſituated.

This Letter being only a Copy, has no concluding Subſcription.

LETTER LIU.

To my rith wurchipfull
brod^r. jon Paſton be y^s.
delyv'yd.

RYTH wurchyfull brod^r. I r'comande me to zow deſiryng to her of zowr Willefar [1] Byllyng ye S'iant hathe byn in his Contr' And he come to lundon ys weke he ſent for me and aſt me how j far'd j tolde hym her is peſtelens And ſayd j fard ye bett^r. he was in good hele for it was noyſyd y^t he was ded a toke me to him and aſt how my ſuſt^r. dede and j anſweryd wyll nev^r. bett^r. he ſeyd he was w^t. the lord Gray And they talkyd of j jantilmā qweche is Ward to my lord j r'me'b^r. he ſayd it was Harry Gray that thei talkyd of And my lord ſayd I was beſy w^t. jn ys fewe days to a maryd hym to a jantyllwomā jn Norfolke that ſchall have iiij C. marc' to hyr mariage And now a wyll not be me for iiij C marc' wulde do me heſe And now he wulde have his mariage mony hȳſelf And ther'for^r quoth he he ſchall mary hym ſelf for me y^is. wurds had my lorde to Byllyng as he tollde me he und'ſtod y^t my lord laboryd for his owne a vayle And c'ſaylyd to byd her be wyſe And j thanlkeyd hym for hys good c'ſayll I ſent zow an anſwer of zowr lett^r. of

S^r.

By the converſation that had paſſed between my Lord Grey and Billing, we find that his Lordſhip had his own intereſt in view in the match he had propoſed to John Paſton for his Siſter, but on finding that his Ward was not willing to give up to him the Lady's fortune,

LETTER LIV.

To my right worſhipful brother John Paſton, be this delivered.

RIGHT worſhipful brother I recommend me to you, deſiring to hear of your welfare. [1] Billing the Serjeant hath been in his Country, and he came to London this week; he ſent for me and aſked me how I fared; I told him here is Peſtilence; and ſaid I fared the better (*that*) he was in good hele (*health*) for it was noiſed that he was dead; a toke *(he took)* me to him, and aſked how my Siſter did, and I anſwered well, never better; he ſaid he was with the Lord Grey, and they talked of a gentleman which is Ward to my Lord, I remember he ſaid it was Harry Grey that they talked of; and my Lord ſaid, "I was buſy within this few days to amaryd (*have married*) him to a gentlewoman in Norfolk, that ſhall have 400 marks *(266l. 13s. 4d.)* to her marriage, and now he will not be (*q? buy*) me, for 400 marks would do me eaſe, and now he would have his marriage money himſelf, and therefore, quoth he, he ſhall marry himſelf for me."

Theſe words had my Lord to Billing, as he told me, he underſtood that my Lord laboured for his own avail; and counſelled to bid her be wiſe; and I thanked him for his good counſel.

I ſent you an anſwer of your Letter of Sir John Faſtolf's

fortune, he would proceed no farther in the propoſal. Some part of this account however appears obſcure.

[1] Thomas Billing was made a Serjeant in 1453, and about 1469 was appointed Chief Juſtice of the King's Bench.

coming

S^r^. jon Faſtolf comyng hom as he told me hem ſelf nev^r^the leſſe he bode longer than he ſayd hymſelf he ſchull a do he tolde me he ſchulde make j ende be twix [2] Skroop and my Suſt^r^. wulle he is in Norfolke many wulde it ſchulde not p've for thei ſay it is an onlykkely mariage jn caſſe [3] Creſſen^r^ be talkyd of ony mor he is countyd a jantyllma'ly ma' and a wurſhepfull ze knowe he is moſt wurchipfull bett^r^. than I at the r'v'ens of good drawe to ſume c'cluſyn it is time my lord [4] Chanſeler come not her ſone I come to lu'd'n ney^r^ my Lord of [5] Yorke my lord of [6] Canterbury hathe rec^d^. hys croſſe And j was w^t^. hym in the kynggs Cham^r^. qwan he mad hys homage j tolde Harry Wylton y^e^ [7] demeny'g betwix the kyng and hym it war to long to wrythe as for the priſt y^t^ dede areſte me I can not und'ſtand y^t^ it is ye pryſte y^t^ ze mene her is gret [8] peſtelens *I* purpoſe to fle in to the Contr' my lord of [9] Oxforthe is come azen fro the Se And he hath geth hym lytyll thank in this Countr' much more thyng j wulde wrythe to zow but I lak lyſor' Harry Wylton ſey the kyng my lord of [10] Ely hathe do hys ſewthe god have zow in

[2] Scroope was a widower, and moſt probably much older than the Lady, and therefore it is ſpoken of as an unlikely (*diſproportioned*) marriage. He was the Son-in-law of Sir John Faſtolf.

[3] Who Creſſener was I cannot diſcover.

[4] Richard Nevil, Earl of Saliſbury, was appointed Chancellor in April 1454.

[5] This muſt be either Richard Plantagenet Duke of York; or William Booth, who was tranſlated to the province of York in 1452, from Coventry and Litchfield.

[6] Thomas Bourchier was elected by the Convent to the Archiepiſcopal See of Canterbury in April 1454, from the See of Ely. He lived fifty-one years after his firſt conſecration, dying in 1486, after he had been Archbiſhop thirty-two years. No Engliſhman ever continued ſo long a Biſhop, nor has any Archbiſhop either before or ſince his time enjoyed this dignity ſo many years.

hys

coming home as he told me himſelf, nevertheleſs he bode (*ſtaid*) longer than he ſaid himſelf he ſhould a do (*have done*).

He told me he ſhould make an end betwixt [2] Scroop and my Siſter while he is in Norfolk; many would it ſhould not prove, for they ſay it is an unlikely marriage.

In caſe [3] Creſſener be talked of any more, he is counted a gentlemanly man and a worſhipful, ye know who is moſt worſhipful better than I; at the reverence of God draw to ſome concluſion, it is time.

My Lord [4] Chancellor come not here, ſince I came to London, neither my Lord of [5] York.

My Lord of [6] Canterbury hath received his Croſs, and I was with him in the King's Chamber when he made his homage; I told Harry Wilton the [7] demeaning betwixt the King and him, it were too long to write.

As for the Prieſt that did arreſt me, I cannot underſtand that it is the Prieſt that ye mean.

Here is great [8] Peſtilence, I purpoſe to flee into the Country. My Lord of [9] Oxford is come again fro the ſea, and he hath gotten him little thank in this country; much more thing I would write to you, but I lack leiſure.

Harry Wilton ſaw the King. My Lord of [10] Ely hath done his fewthe (*faith or fealty.*) God have you in his bleſſed keeping.

[7] I dare ſay that my Reader, as well as myſelf, wiſh that W. Paſton had not thought the ceremonies uſed on this occaſion too long for his Letter.

[8] I do not find this year marked as a year of Peſtilence by our Hiſtorians.

[9] John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, beheaded in 1461.

[10] William Gray, a man of noble birth and great learning: he continued Biſhop of Ely till 1478, when he died at Downham in Norfolk, and was buried in his own Cathedral.

hys blyſſyd kepyng Wr'tyn at lu'do' on the Fryday be for owr [11] ladys day the natyvite in gret haſt I pray r'comand me to my Suſt[r]. And to my Coſyn Cler.

Be yowr brod[r],

[11] Wm. Paſton.

11 ½ by 5 ¾.

Paper Mark,
A Bunch of Grapes.
Pl. IX. N° 14.

[11] 8th of September.

LETTER LII.

To the Worſhypfull and my ryght welbelovyd Coſyn John Paſton.

WORSHYPFULL and ryght welbelovyd Coſyn I comaund me to yow lyke you to wete that y have reſſeyved a l're at thys tyme from John Bokkyng wyth acōp of the patent conc[r]nyng the Wardeſhyp that ye wote off by whych y underſtand that ye have both wrought and holpen by your grete wyſdom to bryng thys matier aboute whych y deſyred your frendſhyp and gode avice for the ſeurtee of the ſeyd Waarde And for expedicon of whych y thank you ryzt hertlye and pray you to contynew foorth your gode labours in the ſame yn ſuch wyſe as it may be made ſure ynall wyſe thoy it coſt me the more of my gode.

And

Written at London, on the Friday before our [11] Lady's-day the nativity, in great haſte. I pray recommend me to my Siſter and to my Couſin Clere.

By your Brother,

[11] WILLIAM PASTON.

London,
Friday 6th of September,
1454. 33 H. VI.

[12] William Paſton was the fourth Son of Sir William Paſton, the Judge, and having been a ſteady Lancaſtrian, had a pardon for all treaſons, &c. under the great ſeal, dated 16th of July 1468. 8 E. IV.
Autograph. Pl. II. N° 21.

LETTER LV.

To the worſhipful and my right well beloved Couſin John Paſton.

WORSHIPFUL and right well beloved Couſin, I commend me to you, like you to weet that I have received a Letter at this time from John Bokking, with a Copy of the Patent concerning the Wardſhip that ye wote *(know)* of, by which I underſtand that ye have both wrought and holpen, by your great wiſdom, to bring this matter about, which I deſired your friendſhip and good advice for the ſurety of the ſaid Ward; and for expedition of which I thank you right heartily, and pray you to continue forth your good labours in the ſame, in ſuch wiſe as it may be made ſure in all wiſe, though it coſt me the more of of my good.

And where as it ys remembred me by the ſeyd l'res that y ſhuld labour to ghete the ſeyd Ward yn to my gouv'nce truely y can not ſee how y coude do it to be doon for y have none acqueynt'unce in that Contree that y coude truſt too. Wythoute the Shyreve myght be my tender frende in thys cauſe or othyr ſuch as ye thynk beſt Wherfor y pray you hertlye to take thys mater tenderly to hert. And that ye lyke ſeke a moyen of ſuch frendys as ye can beſt avyſe and may verrayly truſt uppon to gyde thys mater yn ſuch wyſe as myne entent myght be ſped for the poſſeſſion of it (for now that y have go ſo ferre yn the matier) y wold not it faylled for no gode but it preved well and toke to A gode concluſion And where as y have underſtand late by certeyn well will'rs to you warde whych have meoved me that yn caſe the ſeyd warde myght be had that ye deſyre an Alliaunce ſhulde take atwyx A doughter of yours and the ſeyd Waard of whych moc'on y was ryght glad to hyre off And wylle be ryght well wylling and helpyng that your blode and myne myght increſe yn alliaunces. And yff it pleaſe yow that by your wyſdom and gode conduyt that ye wolde help beere owte thys mater ſubſt'unciallie ayenſt my partie contrarie and eville

On the back of this Letter, in an ancient hand, is written as follows:

"S[r] Jo. Faſtolf willing to have maried T. Faſtolf to one of the daughters of Jo. Paſton if he had obteyned the wardſhipp of hym."

This Thomas Faſtolf appears by the Pedigrees of the Family to have been the Son and heir of Nicholas Faſtolf of Ipſwich, by Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir John Braham, knt. and Couſin to Sir John Faſtolf. He was at this time about ten years old, as appears by Letter LIX. vol. iv. where his mother complains of thoſe, who had obtained the Wardſhip of him, endeavouring to make him younger than he was, that they might keep longer poſſeſſion of his livelihood.—In 1465 ſhe ſays he was above twenty-one years old.

This is a very curious Letter, as it affords us a true repreſentation of the addreſs made uſe of to get poſſeſſion of a Minor, not only that the management of his Eſtate

wille's

And whereas it is remembered me by the ſaid letters that I ſhould labour to get the ſaid Ward into my governance; truly I cannot ſee how I could do it to be done, for I have none acquaintance in that country, that I could truſt to, without the Sheriff might be my tender friend in this cauſe, or other ſuch as ye think beſt; wherefore I pray you heartily to take this matter tenderly to heart, and that ye like (*to*) ſeek a mean of ſuch friends as ye can beſt adviſe, and may verily truſt upon, to guide this matter in ſuch wiſe as mine intent might be ſped for the poſſeſſion of it; for now that I have gone ſo far in the matter, I would not it failed for no good, but (*that*) it proved well and took to a good concluſion.

And whereas I have underſtood lately, by certain well-willers to you ward, which have moved me, that in caſe the ſaid Ward might be had, that ye deſire an alliance ſhould take atwixt a daughter of yours and the ſaid Ward; of which motion, I was right glad to hear of, and will be right well willing and helping that your blood and mine might increaſe in alliances; and if it pleaſe you that by your wiſdom and good conduct, that ye would help (*to*) bear out this matter ſubſtantially againſt my party con-

might be in the hands of the Guardian, but likewiſe the power of marrying him to whom, and on what terms, he pleaſed.

In this caſe the match propoſed ſeems to have been a proper one, if the young people, whoſe inclinations were never conſulted on theſe occaſions, happened to approve of each other; if they did not, they were both perhaps rendered miſerable during their lives.

This power of marrying the Ward, when under the direction of a covetous or bad Guardian, was often moſt ſhamefully abuſed; and, tyrannical as it was, it continued in force till the reign of Charles II.

I ſhould ſuppoſe that Sir J. Faſtolf did not accompliſh his purpoſe, both from what the mother of the young man complains of, in Letter LIX. vol. iv. and from no marriage taking place between him and a daughter of J. Paſton.

wille's that I myght have myne entent I enſure you ye and y ſhuld appoynt and accorde yn ſuch wyſe as ye ſhuld hale you ryght well pleſed both for the encreſyng of your lynage and alſo of myne And y pray you be ware whom ye make of your counſaille and myne yn thys mater And that it may be well bore owte er ye com thens and yn a ſure wey And yff y had knowe rathyr of your entent it ſhuld hafe coſt me more of my gode before thys to hafe com to A gode Concluſion Whych y promyſſe yhyt ſhall bee and the mater take by the fayth of my bodye Worſhypfull and ryght welbelovyd Coſyn y pr'y god ſpede you yn thys matier and ſende you your gode deſyrs. Wreten at Caſtr the xj day of Novēber A° xxxiij° R' H. vj.

yo[r] Coſyn,

[1] John Faſtolfe.

11 ½ by 6¼.
Paper Mark
a Bull
Pl. xxii. N° 16.

[2] It'm Coſyn I pray yow when ye ſee tyme that my lord of [3] Caunt'bury and my lord [4] Cromewell may be ſpoke wyth for the godes of my lord Bedford beyng yn dyv's men handz be compelled to be brought ynne. as ye ſhall ſee more along of thys mater wyth the wrytyngs That y have made mencon and left wyth John Bokkyng and Williā Barker.

[1] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 15.

[2] This relates to the money due to Sir John Faſtolf from the Duke of Bedford, as his ſhare of the Ranſom paid by the Duke of Alençon, who was taken priſoner at the battle of Verneuil, in 1424. See Letter XXVIII. Vol. i. p. 121. and the notes thereto.

trary and evil-willers, that I might have mine intent, I enſure you, ye and I ſhould appoint and accord in ſuch wiſe as ye ſhould hold you right well pleaſed both for the increaſing of your lineage and alſo of mine; and I pray you beware whom ye make of your counſel and mine in this matter, and that it may be well bore out ere ye come thence and in a ſure way; and if I had known rather (*earlier*) of your intent, it ſhould have coſt me more of my good before this, to have come to a good concluſion, which I promiſe yet ſhall be, and *(if)* the matter take, by the faith of my body.

Worſhipful and right well beloved Couſin, I pray God ſpeed you in this matter, and ſend you your good deſires. Written at Caiſter, the 11th day of November, in the 33d year of King Henry VI.

Your Couſin,

[1] JOHN FASTOLF.

Caiſter,
Monday, 11 Nov.
1454. 33 H. VI.

[2] Item, Couſin I pray you when ye ſee time, that my Lord of [3] Canterbury, and my Lord [4] Cromwell may be ſpoken with for the Goods of my Lord Bedford, being in divers men's hands, be compelled to be brought in, as ye ſhall ſee more along *(at large)* of this matter, with the Writings that I have made mention *(of)* and left with John Bokking and William Barker.

[3] Thomas Bourchier was elected from the See of Ely to the Archiepiſcopal Dignity in April this year.

[4] Henry Lord Cromwell.

LET-

LETTER LVI.

To the wrſhepfull Sr and my good Mayſtyr Iohn Paſton at london in haſte.

WURSHEPFULL and Reuerent Sr and my good maiſtyr I Recomavnd me to zow in as delygent wyſe as on my part aptteineth and pleaſe yow to wete that my maiſtyr was right well pleaſyd wt yotre feithefull labor in fulfellyng the patent for the Warrd of A.B.C and he wyll feithefully labour as ye have avyſed hym be wrytyng of John Bokyng And putte my maiſtyr in more corage I meovyd to hym upon myn hed That encas be the Child wer wyſe that thaune it wer agood maryage be twen my wyff yo're doutir and hym And Sr my maiſtyr was glad whan he herd that moyen Coſetheryng that yo're doutyr is deſendyd of hym be the modyr ſyde And Sr I have enqwerid aftyr the ſeyd Child and no dout of but he is lykly and of gret wyt as I her be report of ſondr prſonez And it is ſo as I am credebly enformyd that [1] Jeffrey Boleyn maketh gret labo'r for maryage of the ſeyd Child to on of heſe Douterez I wold well to hym but bettyr to yow wherfor that ye delygently labo'r for expedecyon of this mater That encas ye can fynde ony moyan ther to have the

On the back of the Letter is written in an ancient hand, "The ſaid Jo. Paſton allyed to Sr Jo. Faſtolf by his wife, vid. Mrgarett Mauteby, p'ut patt. infra."

We have in this Letter an inſtance of the deſire of acquiring the wardſhip of rich minors, in order to make advantageous marriages for the families of thoſe who were ſo fortunate as to obtain the care of them. Who the Ward was, is not here mentioned, but the young lady alluded to, and whom T. Howys, in pleaſantry I ſuppoſe, uſed to call

LETTER LVI.

To the worſhipful Sir, and my good Maſter John Paſton, at London, in haſte.

WORSHIPFUL and reverend Sir, and my good maſter, I recommend me to you in as diligent wiſe as on my part appertaineth, and pleaſe you to weet that my maſter was right well pleaſed with your faithful labour in fulfilling the Patent for the Ward of A. B. C. and he will faithfully labour as ye have adviſed him by writing of John Bocking; And *(to)* put my maſter in more courage, I moved to him upon mine head, that in caſe be the Child were wiſe, that then it were a good marriage between my wife your daughter and him; and, Sir, my maſter was glad when he heard that mean, conſidering that your daughter is deſcended of him by the mother's ſide; And, Sir, I have enquired after the ſaid child, and no doubt of, but he is likely and of great wit, as I hear by report of ſundry perſons; and it is ſo, as I am credibly informed, that [1] Jeffrey Boleyn maketh great labour for marriage of the ſaid child to one of his daughters; I would well to him, but better to you; wherefore that ye diligently labour for expedition of this matter, that in caſe ye can find any mean there to have the ſaid child, and

call his wife, muſt have been either Anne or Margery, daughters of J. Paſton, the elder of whom could not have been at this time more than ten years old.

[1] Sir Jeffrey Boleyn was Lord Mayor of London in 1457, and at this time had two daughters, Iſabel, afterwards married to William Cheyney, Eſq. and Anne, afterwards the wife of Sir Henry Heydon, of Baconſthorp, Knt.

This Jeffrey was great grand-father to Queen Anne Boleyn, the Queen of Henry VIII.

the ſeyd Child and we ſhal do feithefully o're delygens in lyke wyſe her as ye avyſe vs &c And S^r^ as ye thynke w^t^ auyſe of my maiſtyr yelverton Jenney and otherez my maiſterez counſell therī that the Shereff may be Rewardyd And yif my ſeyd maiſterez counſell thynke it be to don that thaune ye lyke to take an [2] actyoun vpon Anenteynt wheche ye moſt w^t^ them take vpon yow at this tyme in my maiſterez abſence for as ye do Jn that mater he woll hold hȳ Content for Wyllyam Barker hathe an Inſtruccyon of my maiſterez Jntent vpon the ſame And I ſend Iohn Bokyng a copy of the panell wheche J ſhewed yow at Caſtr &c. Almyghty Ihu have yow et^r^nally in heſe mercyfull governaunce Wretyn at Caſtr the Wednyſday next aftyr ſeynt Martyn A° xxxiij.

[3] Th. Howys.

11 ½ by 7 ¾.
Paper Mark
Bull's Head and Star
Pl. XXII. N° 13.

[2] An Action of Attaint lies, after judgment, againſt a jury that hath given a falſe Verdict in any Court of Record, if the debt or damages are above 40s.

LETTER LUIJ.

To my Right truſty and welbelovyd Coſyn Iohn Paſton in goodly haſte.

RYGHT truſty and welbelovyd Coſyn I comaund me to yow And pleaſe yow to wete that I am av'tyſed that at adyn^r^ in Norwiche wher as ye and othyr Jentylmen wer p'ſent that

we ſhall do faithfully our diligence in like wiſe here, as ye adviſe us, &c.

And, Sir, as ye think with advice of my maſter Yelverton, Jenney, and others my maſter's counſel therein, that the Sheriff may be rewarded, and if my ſaid maſter's counſel think it be to *(be)* done, that then ye like to take an [2] Action upon an Atteint, which ye muſt with them take upon you at this time in my maſter's abſence, for as ye do in that matter he will hold him content, for William Barker hath an inſtruction of my maſter's intent upon the ſame. And I ſend John Barker a copy of the panel, which I ſhewed you at Caiſter, &c.

Almighty Jeſu have you eternally in his merciful governance. Written at Caiſter the Wedneſday next after Saint Martin, anno 33 (H. VI.)

[3] THOMAS HOWYS.

Caiſter,
Wedneſday, 13 Nov.
1454. 33 H. VI.

[3] Autograph. Pl. xix. N° 16.

LETTER LVII.

To my right truſty and well beloved Couſin John Paſton, in goodly haſte.

RIGHT truſty and well beloved Couſin, I commend me to you, and pleaſe you to weet that I am advertiſed that at a Dinner in Norwich, where as (*at*) ye and other Gentlemen

that that ther were certeyn p'ſonez Jentylmen whiche utteryd ſkornefull language of me as in thys wyſe w^t mor ſeyeng war the goſune war and goo we to Dyn^r goo we wher to Sr John Faſtolf and ther we ſhall well paye ther fore what ther menyng was I knowe well to no good entent to me ward wherfor Coſyn J prey yow as my truſte is in yow that ye geve me knowelege be writing what Jentylmen they be that had this report with mor' and what mo Jentylmen wer p'ſent as ye wold I ſhuld and wer my deute to do for yow in ſemblabyll wyſe And I ſhall kepe yowr informatyon in this mater ſecret And w^t godds grace ſo p'vey for hem as they ſhall not all be well pleaſyd at ſuche a tyme a man may knowe heſe Frendes and heſe fooes aſond'r &c. Jhu p'ſerve and kepe yow wretyn at Caſt'r the vij day of Fev'er A°. xxxiij R. H. vj^ti.

John Faſtolf, knyght.

12 by 4.

Though Sir John Faſtolf knew the meaning of theſe ſcornful words, we, at this diſtance of time ſhall find a difficulty in explaining them. They ſeem to ſignify, that Sir John was a Gaſcon, *(a Boaſter)*, and that it was neceſſary to beware of him, as thoſe who eat at his table were often deceived by him to their coſt.

LET

were preſent that there were certain perſons, Gentlemen, which uttered ſcornful language of me, as in this wiſe with more, ſaying, " War the Goſune war and go we to dinner, go we where? to Sir John Faſtolf's, and there we ſhall well pay therefore." What their meaning was I know well to be no good intent to me ward; wherefore, Couſin, I pray you, as my truſt is in you, that ye give me knowledge by writing what Gentlemen they be that had this report with more; and what more Gentlemen were preſent, as ye would I ſhould, and (*it*) were my duty to do, for you in ſemblable *(ſimilar)* wiſe. And I ſhall keep your information in this matter ſecret; and with God's grace ſo purvey for them as they ſhall not all be well pleaſed. At ſuch a time a man may know his friends and his foes aſunder, &c.

Jeſu preſerve and keep you, written at Caiſter, the 7th day of February, in the 33d year of King Henry VI.

JOHN FASTOLF, Knight.

Caiſter, Thurſday,
7 Feb. 1454.
33 H. VI.

At the time that this ſpirited Letter was dictated by him and written by his Secretary, he was nearly 80 years of age; we ſee however the youthful ardour of the veteran ſoldier rekindling at the inſulting language uſed in his abſence to defame his character.

Autograph. Pl. II. N° 15.

LETTER LVIII.

To my ryght well be lovyd
John Paſton eſquyer be yˢ
delivʳed.

WURCHEPEFULL S'e and right well be louyd I grete yow well deſyryng to here of youre well fare Praying you interlych to bie wᵗ me at dyner on Seynt benett day the whiche xall be on Friday next Comyng or ell in brief tyme Couenable to your eaſe to thentent yat I may Co'moun wyth yow of diuers maters the whiche I p'poſe to haue a doo jn be your good advyſe and in on eſpecyall as for the chirche of Stokeſby whiche J underſtand xall moche be reulyd aftʳ your advyſe and Content triſtyng our Co'munication had in yᵉ ſeyd xall cauſe pees and pleaſer to all p'ties be leve of our lord the whiche lord mote p'ſerue you in all goode Wreten in my moñ the xvij day of Marche.

Be your good frend,

The Abbot of S. benetts.

11 ½ by 4.

This Abbey was founded by King Canute, between the years 1020 and 1030 in a low and marſhy ſituation, in the pariſh of Ludham, in the County of Norfolk, and was dedicated to St. Benedict.

The Abbots of this monaſtery were mitred Abbots and Lords of Parliament, its revenues were large, and its conſequence conſiderable. John Martin was the Lord Abbot at this time, having been elected in 1439; he died about 1459.

In the year 1455 St. Benet's day fell on a Friday (21 *March.*)—This day I ſuppoſe was their grand foundation feſtival.

LETTER LVIII.

To my right well beloved John Paſton, Eſq. be this delivered.

WORSHIPFUL Sir and right well beloved, I greet you well, deſiring to hear of your welfare, praying you entirely to be with me at dinner on Saint Benne't's day, the which ſhall be on Friday next coming, or elſe in brief time convenable to your eaſe, to the intent that I may commune with you of divers matters, the which I propoſe to have a do in by your good advice, and in one eſpecial. As for the Church of Stokeſby, which I underſtand ſhall be much ruled after your advice and content, truſting our communication had in the ſaid (*ſame*) ſhall cauſe peace and pleaſure to all parties by leave of our Lord, the which Lord mote (*pleaſe to*) preſerve you in all good.

Written in my Monaſtery, the 17th day of March, &c.

By your good Friend,
The ABBOT of St. BENE'T'S.

St. Benet's Abby,
Monday, 17th of March,
1454-5. 33 H. VI.

During the life of this Abbot there were ſeveral diſputes between this Abbey and the City of Norwich, it was therefore perhaps on ſome buſineſs of this kind that the Abbot wanted to conſult J. Paſton.

In 1455 the preſentation to the living of Stokeſby lapſed to the Biſhop of Norwich.

I have given this as a private Letter from a Lord Abbot, as having not the haughty ſtyle of an eccleſiaſtic, but the polite one of a gentleman.

Autograph. Pl. xix. N° 17.

LET-

LETTER LIX.

To my right wurchipfull husbond John Paston be yis delyverid in hast.

RIGHT wurchipfull hosbond I recomawnd me to yow besechīg yow that ye be not displeasid wt me thow my sympleneſſe cawsed yow for to be displeasid wt me be my trowth it is not my will noyr to do ne sey that shuld cawse yow for to be displeasid and if I have do I am sory y'of and will amend itt Wherefor I beseche yow to forgeve me and yt ye bere none hevyneſſe in yor hert ayens me For yor displeasans shuld be to hevy to me to jndur wt J send yow the roll that ye sent for in selyd be ye bryngr her of it was fownd in yor trussīg Cofor As for ı herīg I have bowt an horslode for iiijs vjd I can gett none ell yett As for bever yr is p'mysid me somme but I myt not gete it yett I sent to Ione Petche to have an answer for ye Wyndowis for she myt not Come to me and she sent me word that she had spoke yrof to Thom's Igh'm and he seyd yt he shuld speke wt yow hymself and he shuld accord wt yow wel jnow and seyd to her it was not her p't to desyr of hym to stop ye lyts And also he seyd itt was not his p'te to do itt be cawse ye place is his but for yeris And as for all oyr eronds that ye have cōmandid for to be

We have often seen Margaret Paston in the character of the attentive, careful, and obedient wife; we here view her as the tender and disconsolate one. Her sorrow for her husband's displeasure at her "simpleneſs" is expressed in the most artleſs and affectionate manner; could he "bere hevyneſſe in his hert ayens her" after this Letter?

do

LETTER LIX.

To my right worſhipful Huſband John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I recommend me to you, beſeeching you that ye be not diſpleaſed with me, though my ſimpleneſs cauſed you for to be diſpleaſed with me; by my truth it is not my will neither to do nor ſay that (*which*) ſhould cauſe you for to be diſpleaſed, and if I have done (*it*), I am ſorry thereof, and will amend it; wherefore I beſeech you to forgive me, and that ye bear none heavineſs in your heart againſt me, for your diſpleaſure ſhould be too heavy to me to endure with.

I ſend you the Roll that ye ſent for, enſealed by the bringer hereof; it was found in your truſſing Coffer. As for [a] Herring, I have bought an horſe-load for 4*s.* and 6*d.* I can get none Eels yet; as for Bever there is promiſed me ſome, but I might not get it yet. I ſent to Joan Petche to have an anſwer for the windows, for ſhe might not come to me; and ſhe ſent me word that ſhe had ſpoken thereof to Thomas Ingham, and he ſaid that he ſhould ſpeak with you himſelf, and he ſhould accord with you well enough, and (*he*) ſaid to her it was not her part to deſire of him to ſtop the lights; and alſo he ſaid it was not his part to do it, becauſe the place is his but for years.

And as for all other errands that ye have commanded for to

[a] Theſe Herrings and Eels were for their Lent proviſion, and this Letter was probably written in 1454, when the firſt Sunday in Lent was on the 10th of March.

do y^ei ſhall be do als ſone as y^ei may be do The bliſſid Trynyte have yow in his kepīg Wretyn at Norwyche on ye Monday next aft^r ſeynt Edward.

Yowris,

[2] M. P.

11 ¼ by 4 ¼.
Part of the Paper Mark, Bull's Head and Star. Pl. VIII. N° 2.

[2] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

LETTER LX.

To my Wurſhipfull Maiſter John Paſton Eſquier.

MI Maiſter Paſton I recomaunde me to you and wher ye ſhulde be enformed that I ſhulde ſey to [1] Howard that ye labored to be knyght of the ſhire I ſeid nev^r ſoo to hym I tolde my lord of Norff' atte london that I labored div'ſe men for Sr Roger Chaumb'leyn And they ſeid to me they wolde have hym but not Howard in aſmeche as he hadde no lyvelode in

This is a true picture of modern electioneering, and ſuch a Letter might be written from any County or Town in the kingdom during the time that a choice for Members was depending.

The exact date of this Letter cannot be aſcertained, John Jenney was Member for the City of Norwich in 1452, and again in 1477, but if this Letter be addreſſed to John Paſton the Father, (and I rather think it is) it muſt have been written I believe about 1455, when a Parliament was ſummoned to meet in July. John Jenney indeed was not then returned, but that does not ſignify, as he ſeems to have doubts whether he ſhould be ſo or not.

the

be done, they ſhall be done als (*as*) ſoon as they may be done. The bleſſed Trinity have you in his keeping.

Written at Norwich, on the Monday next after Saint Edward.

Yours,

MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,
Monday, March,
1454. 33 H. VI.

LETTER LX.

To my worſhipful Maſter John Paſton, Eſquire.

MY Maſter Paſton, I recommend me to you, and where (*as*) ye ſhould be informed that I ſhould ſay to [1] Howard that ye laboured to be Knight of the Shire, I ſaid never ſo to him; I told my Lord of Norfolk at London that I laboured divers men for Sir Roger Chamberlayn, and they ſaid to me they would have him, but not Howard, in as much as he had no livelihood

He married Elizabeth, Daughter and heir of Thomas Wetherby, the rich Alderman of Norwich, who had been Mayor in 1427 and 1432, and Repreſentative in Parliament for that City in 1437, on whoſe deceaſe, in 1445, he inherited the Eſtate at Intwood in right of his wife. He was afterwards deputy Recorder and ſtanding Counſel for the City, and died in 1497.

Howard was a relation to John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, whoſe character here appears to be that of a man who often talked without conſideration.

the ſhire nor Conr̃ſm'nt And I aſked them hom they wolde have and they ſeid they wolde have you And thus I tolde hym And he ſeid on avyſely as he kan doo full well I myght not ſey ye labored ther for I herde nevr ſey ye labored therfor be the feithe I vowe to God As for this Writ of the pr̃lemt of Norwich I thanke you that ye will laborr ther in As for my Frendys ther I truſte right well all the Aldermen except [2] Broun and ſech as be in his [3] dawnger I prey you ſpekith to Walter [4] Jeffrey and Herry [5] Wilton and maketh them to laborr to your entent I prey you that yf ye thenke that it wull not be that it like you that to ſey that ye meve it of your ſelf and not be my deſire ſum men holde it right ſtraunge to be in this [6] pr̃lemt and me thenketh they be wyſe men that ſoo doo Wreten Atte [7] Jntewode on Sceint John Day in haſt.

Your ſũnt,

[8] John Jenney.

11 ½ by 5 ½.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star,
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

[2] Richard Brown was Mayor of Norwich in 1454, and Member for that City in 1460.
[3] This means *in his debt*, and therefore under his influence.
[4] Walter Jeffrey was Under-ſheriff of Norwich in 1451, 1452 and 1459.
[5] Henry Wilton was returned with John Jenney in 1477.
[6] This muſt refer to the conteſts between the Houſes of York and Lancaſter.

L. E. T.

in the ſhire nor converſement (*acquaintance or intercourſe.*) And I aſked them whom they would have, and they ſaid they would have you, and thus I told him, and he ſaid unadviſedly, as he can do full well; I might not (*could not*) ſay ye laboured therefore, for I heard never ſay ye laboured therefore by the faith I owe to God.

As for this Writ of the Parliament of Norwich, I thank you that ye will labour therein; as for my Friends there, I truſt right well all the Aldermen except [2] Brown and ſuch as be in his [3] danger; I pray you ſpeak to Walter [4] Jeffrey and Harry [5] Wilton, and make them to labour to your intent. I pray you that if ye think that it will not be, that it like you to ſay, that you move it of yourſelf, and not by my deſire. Some men hold it right ſtrange to be in this [6] Parliament, and me thinketh they be wiſe men that ſo do. Written at [7] Intwood, on Saint John's day, in haſte.

Your Servant,

[8] JOHN JENNEY.

Intwood,
St. John's day, 24th of June.
About 1455. 33 H. VI.

[7] This Eſtate came afterwards by purchaſe to the Greſhams, and here it was that, in 1549, Sir Thomas Greſham, Knight, founder of the Royal Exchange, entertained John Dudley, the great Earl of Warwick, when he marched into Norfolk to attack Ket the rebel Tanner. It was afterwards ſold to the Hobarts, and is at preſent the property of the honourable Henry Hobart, Member for the City of Norwich.

[8] Autograph. Pl. XIX. N° 18.

LETTER LXJ.

The Erlys of Marche Warwyke and Salyſbury.

RYGHT welbeloued we grete you wele and wherfor the tendre love that we haue to the conceruacon of the kyngs peas lawes and juſtice in this his realme of Englonde we haue Comaunded the kyngs peeple in his name be oure letters and div'ſe writyngs that no man ſhulde robbe or diſpoile Sr Thom's Todenh'm Knyght John Heyden John Wyndh'm Herry Todenh'm and John Andrws and other weche have ſued to us for oure ſeide letters We wolyng to eſchewe that any p^rſon ſhulde haue Colo^r be oure ſeide letters to noyſe us or any of us that the ſeide Sr Thom's John Heyden John Wyndh'm Herry and John Andrws or any other of Suſpecte Fame be accorded w^t us or any of us for ſuche wrongs as they or any of ham haue do to us our f^runts and ten'nts or wellwellers or that we ſhulde hafe hem in tendreneſſe or fauour to diſcorage trewe people to ſwe a yen hem be the lawe We therfore notyfie to yow as we woll that it be notyfid to all people that we ne noon of us Jntende not to fauo^r or tendre hem or any other of ſuſpecte fame but ratherto corecte ſuche

On the back of this Letter in an ancient hand is written, "The Copie of Thearles of Warr and Saliſbur l're whereby appere The ſuſpected life of Tudenh'm Heydon and others."

The perſons here mentioned were ſteady Lancaſtrians, and I ſuppoſe immediately after the battle of St. Alban's, fought in May, applied to the Yorkiſts for that protection which here ſeems to have been granted to them.

This

LETTER LXI.

The Earls of March, Warwick, and Salisbury.

RIGHT well beloved we greet you well, and where for the tender love that we have to the conservation of the King's peace, laws, and justice, in this his realm of England, we have commanded the King's people in his name, by our Letters and divers Writings, that no man should rob or despoil Sir Thomas Todenham, Knight, John Heydon, John Wyndham, Harry Todenham, and John Andrews, and others which have sued to us for our said Letters; We, willing to eschew that any person should have colour by our said Letters to noise us, or any of us, that the said Sir Thomas, John Heydon, John Wyndham, Harry, and John Andrews, or any other of suspected fame be accorded with us, or any of us for such wrongs as they or any of them have done to us, our servants, and tenants, or well-willers, or that we should have them in tenderness or favour to discourage true people to sue against them by the law; We therefore notify to you, as we will that it be notified to all people, that we, nor none of us, intend not to favour or tender them, or any other of suspected fame, but rather to correct such by the law,

This protection appears however to have given offence to some of their own party, and therefore these directors of the King and Government now found it necessary to qualify the terms granted by them to those in the opposite interest.

These protections were certainly prudent, and shewed that these Noblemen well understood the best methods of drawing over those in the contrary party to their side.

For the Earl of March's Autograph, when King Edward IV. see Pl. IV. N° I. Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, Pl. I. N° 7. Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury, Pl. I. N° 10.

ſuche be the lawe For we made our ſeide letters ſoly for kepyng of the peaſe and Iuſtice and not for fauo^{r} of ſuſpecte condicone And the holy trynyte kepe yow Wreten at london the xxiij^{ti} daye of Iule.

To all meyers Sceryves bâlyfys Conſtables And all the kynges offecers and miniſtres in Norff. and eche on of hem.

LETTER LXIJ.

To the worſhipfull and welbeloved John Paſton Eſquyer.

RIGHT worſhipful and welbeloved Sir I comaunde me unto you And with al my hert thank you for the grete labours that ye oftymes have diligently doon for my welbeloved Servaunt John Ode to th'entent that he ſhuld mowe atteyne to entre and enjoy peaſible his enheritaunce as I am enfo'med dew unto him and pray you of youre goode Contynuaunce certyfieng you that I have written unto Yelverton the Iuſtice that he wol at ſome ſeſonable tyme com'on with Sir Thomas Tudenh'm Knyght and to offre him aſmoche reaſon as it ſhal be thought unto him and to you that lawe wol in that behalf require

for we made our ſaid Letters ſolely for keeping of the peace and juſtice, and not for favour of ſuſpected conditions. And the Holy Trinity keep you. Written at London, the 23d day of July.

To all Mayors, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, Conſtables, and all the King's Officers and Miniſters in Norfolk, and each one of them.

London,
Wedneſday, 23d of July,
1455. 33 H. VI.

LETTER LXII.

To the worſhipful and well beloved John Paſton, Eſquire.

RIGHT worſhipful and well beloved Sir, I commend me unto you, and with all my heart thank you for the great labour that ye oft times have diligently done for my well beloved ſervant John Ode, to the intent that he ſhould mowe (*be able to*) attain to enter and enjoy peaceably his inheritance, as I am informed due unto him; and *(I)* pray you of your good continuance, certifying you that I have written unto Yelverton the Juſtice, that he would at ſome ſeaſonable time commune with Sir Thomas Todenham, Knight, and to offer him as much reaſon, as it ſhall be thought unto him and to you, that law will in

that

require Prayng you that ye wol Com'on with the ſaide Yelverton and to Conceyve betwix you ſuch lawful meones of gyding of this matier that my ſaid ſervaunt may have peaſebly with owten grete trouble his ſaid enheritaunce as J ſhal in caſe ſemblable do my labour unto your pleaſaunce. And pray you that of the diſpoſic'on of the ſaid Sir Thomas Tudenh'm in this behalf I may be c'tified And jhu p'ſ've you written at London the xxvj day of July.

J. Bysshopp

of Lincoln.

11 ½ by 8 ½.

At the bottom of this Letter is written in a hand of the time, "Litt. direct. Johī Paſton īt' Michēm xxxiij & xxxiiij Henr. ſextī," which aſcertains the date.

This Letter contains nothing of any importance, but being written by a learned prelate, I thought it proper to inſert it.

LETTER LVIJ.

The duc of Norff.

BE hit knowen to alle the kyngs trewe liege peple The Cauſe of our Comynge in to this Contre ys by the Comandemēt of ye kynge our Sou^r^ayn lorde. For to enquer of ſuche gret riotts extorcyons oryble wrongis and hurts as his highneſſe ys credybyly enformyd ben don in yis Contre And to know in ſerteyne

that behalf require, praying you that ye will commune with the ſaid Yelverton, and to conceive betwixt you ſuch lawful means of guiding of this matter that my ſaid ſervant may have peaceably without great trouble his ſaid inheritance, as I ſhall in caſe ſemblable (*ſimilar*) do my labour unto your pleaſance (*pleaſure*). And (*I*) pray you that of the diſpoſition of the ſaid Sir Thomas Todenham in this behalf, I may be certified; and Jeſu preſerve you. Written at London, the 26th day of July.

JOHN, Biſhop of Lincoln.

London,
26th of July, 1455.
33 H. VI.

John Chadworth was the ſecond Provoſt of King's College, in Cambridge, and ſucceeded to the See of Lincoln in 1452, ſoon after which he was joined in commiſſion with William Wainfleet, Biſhop of Wincheſter, for reforming the Statutes of both the Colleges built by King Henry VI. at Eton and Cambridge. He died in 1471.
Autograph. Pl. xix. N° 23.

LETTER LXIII.

The Duke of Norfolk.

BE it known to all the King's true liege people, the cauſe of our coming into this country is, by the commandment of the King our ſovereign lord, for to enquire of ſuch great riots, extortions, horrible wrongs, and hurts, as his highneſs is credibly informed be done in this country, and to know in certain,

teyne by yow yᵗ knowe the trowthe. by what pʳſone or perſonys the ſeyde gret riotts extorcions oryble wrongis and hurts be done Wherfor we charge yow alle on yᵉ kyngs behalve our ſouʳayne lorde yᵗ ze ſpar neyyʳ for love drede ne fer yᵗ ze haue to any perſone of what eſtat degre or Condicion he be but yᵗ ze ſey the ſoth by whome ſuche offences be done And yᵗ ze ſpar no man yᵗ ze knowe gilty. And be the feyth yᵗ we owe to our ſouʳayn lorde yey ſchal be chaſtyſid after ther deſert. And hit reformyd as lawe requyrith. Alſo hit ys opunly puplyſſchid yᵗ ſerteyne ſʳunts of yᵉ lord Scales ſchulde in his name manaſſe and put men in feer and drede to Compleyne to us at yⁱˢ tyme of yᵉ ſeide hurts and greves ſeynge yᵗ we wolde abyde but a ſchort tyme her. And aftir our departynge he wolde haue the rewle and gouʳna'nce as he hay had affore tyme. We lete yow wete yᵗ nexſt the kynge our ſouʳayn lord be his good g'ce and lycence we woll haue the p'ncypall rewle and gouʳnance yrowh all yis Schir of whiſhe we ber our name whyls yᵗ we be lyvynge as ferre as reſon and lawe requyriy. hoſo euʳ. will grutche or ſey the contrary for we woll yᵗ the lord Scales Sʳ Thom's Tudenh'm Sʳ Mylis Stapylton and John Heydon haue in Knowleche yowh our perſone be not dayly her. They ſchal fynde our power her at alle tymes to do the kynge our ſouʳayn lord ſʳuyſe And to ſupport and mayntene yow alle in your right yᵗ ben the kyngs

On the back of this Letter is the following memorandum in an ancient hand, "A "Copie of the Duke of N. L're whᶜʰ ſheweth yᵗ notable Injuries wer comytted by the "L. Scales and his Adherents."

This Letter was written at a time when the King was under the direction of the Duke of York's party, about the year 1455, as it accuſes the Friends of the Houſe of Lancaſter of being guilty of riots and outrageous offences. It fairly ſhews the behaviour of the

by you that know the truth, by what perſon or perſons the ſaid great riots, extortions, horrible wrongs, and hurts be done; wherefore we charge you all, on the king's behalf our ſovereign lord, that ye ſpare neither for love, dread, nor fear that ye have to any perſon of what eſtate, degree, or condition, he be, but that ye ſay the ſoth *(truth)* by whom ſuch offences be done, and that ye ſpare no man that ye know guilty, and, by the faith that we owe to our ſovereign lord, they ſhall be chaſtiſed after their deſert, and it reformed as law requireth.

Alſo it is openly publiſhed that certain ſervants of the Lord Scales ſhould in his name menace and put men in fear and dread to complain to us at this time of the ſaid hurts and griefs, ſaying that we would abide but a ſhort time here, and after our departing he would have the rule and governance as he hath had afore time. We let you weet that next the king our ſovereign lord, by his good grace and licence, we will have the principal rule and governance through all this ſhire, of which we bear our name, while that we be living, as far as reaſon and law requireth, whoſoever will grudge or ſay the contrary; for we will that the Lord Scales, Sir Thomas Todenham, Sir Miles Stapylton, and John Heydon have in knowledge, though our perſon be not daily here, they ſhall find our power here at all times to do the King our ſovereign lord ſervice, and to ſupport and maintain you all

the victorious party to thoſe in the oppoſite intereſt, and ſpeaks the language of thoſe who had the King in their power.

John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, died in 1461. For his curious Autograph ſee Pl. I. N° 3.

From ſuch orders as theſe, iſſued by the great men, we can judge better of the tranſactions of theſe turbulent times than from any regular hiſtory extant.

kyng's trewe lige men For hit may not ben ſeyde nay but y^{t} her hay ben the gretteſt Riotts orryble wrongs and offences done in thiſe partyes. by the ſeide lord Scales Thom's Tudenh'm Mylis Stapilton Joh' Heydon And ſuche as ben Confedred on to theym y^{t} evir was ſeen in our dayes And moſt myſchiffe yrowh ther maliciouſe p'poſe lyke to haue fallyn amonge the kyngs trewe liege peple now late at Norwiche ne had we bett^{r} p'vidid y'for. And alſo y^{t} god fortunyd us to w^{t}ſtande ther ſeyde malicious and evill diſpoſid purpoſe Wherfor maky billiz of your grevance And Come to us And we ſchal brynge yow to the kynges p'ſence our ſelfe whos p'ſence wyll be her in all ye haſt w^{t} the m^{r}cy of god And ſee ye reformacion yer of his owyn perſone.

11 ½ by 8 ½.
Paper Mark,
A Bull.
Pl. xxii. N° 16.

LETTER LXIV.

To my Right Wurſhipfull huſbonde John Paſton be this deliv'd in haſt.

RIGHT Wurſhipfull Huſbonde I recomaunde me unto you pleſith you to witte that myn Avnte [1] Mondeforthe hath deſiryd me to write to you beſechyng you that ye wol

[1] The ſtatute of wardſhip was deſtructive to many noble and ancient Families in this kingdom, whoſe heirs were ruined by improper matches and neglected education, it was therefore wiſely aboliſhed by the 12 Ch. II.

wocheſafe

in your right that be the King's true liege men; for it may not be ſaid nay, but that here hath been the greateſt riots, horrible wrongs, and offences done in theſe parts by the ſaid Lord Scales, Thomas Todenham, Miles Stapylton, John Heydon, and ſuch as be confederated unto them that ever was ſeen in our days; and moſt miſchief through their malicious purpoſe like to have fallen among the King's true liege people now late at Norwich, ne had we (*had we not*) better provided therefore; and alſo that God fortuned us to withſtand their ſaid malicious and evil diſpoſed purpoſe.

Wherefore make bills of your grievance and come to us, and we ſhall bring you to the King's preſence ourſelf, whoſe preſence will be here in all the haſte with the mercy of God, and ſee the reformation there of his own perſon.

LETTER LXIV.

To my right worſhipful Huſband John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I recommend me unto you, pleaſeth you to weet, that mine Aunt [1] Moundford hath deſired me to write to you, beſeeching you that ye will vouch-

We are here informed that robberies on the road (at leaſt towards London) were at this time frequent.

[1] Oſbert Moundford, Eſq. of Hockwold, married Elizabeth, Daughter of John Berney, Eſq. and by her had Mary, their Daughter and ſole heir, who married Sir William Tindale, Knight of the Bath.

wocheſafe to cheveſshe for her At london xx^{ti} marke for to be payed to Maſtre Ponyngs outher on ſaterday or ſonday weche ſchalbe ſeint Andrwes Daye in diſcharchyng of them that be bounden to Maſtre Ponyngs of the ſeide xx^{ti} marke for the wardeſhip of her doughter the weche xx^{ti} marke ſhe hath delyver' to me in golde for you to have at yor Comyng home for ſhe dare not Aventure her money to be brought up to london for feere of robbyng for it is ſeide heere that there goothe many thefys be twyx this and london weche cauſeth her to beſeche you to content the ſeide money in diſchargyng of the matre And of them that be bounden For ſhe wolde for no goude that the day were broken And ſhe thankyth you hertely for the greet labo^{r} and beſyneſſe that ye have had in that matre and in all others touchyng her and hers Wherfore ſhe ſeithe ſhe is ever bounden to be yor [a] bedwoman and ever wolle be whyle ſhe levethe my Coſyn her ſone and heſe wife recomaundethe them unto you beſechyng you that ye woll weche ſafe to be her goode maſtre As ye have ben A fore tyme For they be enformed that Danyell is comen to Ryſyng caſtell And hes men make her boſt that her maſtre ſhal be A yene At Brayſton w^{t}inne ſhorte tyme Ferthermore As for the matre that my ſone wrote to me for the Boxe wheron wreten *Falce carte Sproute* that J ſhulde enquer of Will'm Wurceſtr' wher it were the ſeide Williã was not at home ſen that I had hes letter but As ſone as he comethe home I ſhall enquere of hym

[a] A Beadſman or Beadſwoman, was a perſon employed in praying, though generally in praying for another.

And

ſafe to cheviſe *(provide)* for her at London twenty marks (13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) for to be paid to Maſter Ponyngs, either on Saturday or Sunday, which ſhall be Saint Andrew's day, in diſcharging of them that be bounden to Maſter Ponyngs of the ſaid twenty marks for the Wardſhip of her daughter, the which twenty marks ſhe hath delivered to me in gold for you to have at your coming home, for ſhe dare not adventure her money to be brought up to London for fear of robbing, for it is ſaid here that there goeth many thieves betwixt this and London, which cauſeth her to beſeech you to content the ſaid money in diſcharging of the matter, and of them that be bounden, for ſhe would for no good that the day were broken; and ſhe thanketh you heartily for the great labour and buſineſs that ye have had in that matter, and in all others touching her and hers, wherefore ſhe ſaith ſhe is ever bounden to be your [a] Beadſwoman, and ever will be while ſhe liveth.

My Couſin, her ſon, and his wife recommendeth them unto you, beſeeching you that ye will vouchſafe to be their good Maſter, as ye have been afore time; for they be informed that Daniel is come to Riſing Caſtle, and his men make their boaſt that their Maſter ſhall be again at Brayſton within ſhort time.

Furthermore, as for the matter that my ſon wrote to me for the box whereon was written *Falſe Carte Sproute* that I ſhould enquire of William Worceſter where it were; the ſaid William was not at home ſince that I had his letter, but as ſoon as he cometh home I ſhall enquire of him, and ſend you an anſwer.

As

And ſende you an Anſwer As towchyng for yor [3] leveryes ther can noon be gete here of that coloure that ye wulde have of nouther murrey nor blwe nor goode ruſſets undrenethe iij^{s} the yerde at the loweſt p'ce and yet is ther not j nough of on clothe and coloure to ſ^{r}ve you And as for to be pvrveid in Suff it wul not be purveide nought now A yenſt this tyme w^{t} oute they had had Warnyng At Michelmeſſe as I am enformed and the bliſſed trenyte have you in his kepyng Wreten at Norweche on ſeint Kateryn Day.

Be yor

[4] Margaret

Paſton.

[1] 11 ¾ by 7 ¾.

[3] A very ingenious and learned Friend of mine has ſuggeſted to me that the honourable and ancient families of this land were formerly guided in the colours of their liveries by the metals and colours in which their arms were blazoned; his ſuggeſtion is here verified, for the arms of Paſton were, argent, ſix Fleurs de Lys azure, and a chief indented or: if therefore ruſſet or grey may be equivalent to argent, the murrey and blue are the identical or and azure of the arms.

LETTER LXV.

To my maiſt' Iohn Paſton.

PLEASE your maiſt^{r}ſhyp to wete that I had ſent yow word of the gode chiere that the p^{r}ſons ye wote off had here uppon new yeer day and how well they toke it but W. Barker coude playnly enforme yow. And John Sadler of Ocle told me how they

As touching for your [3] Liveries, there can none be gotten here of that colour that ye would have of, neither murrey, nor blue, nor good ruſſet, underneath 3*s.* the yard, at the loweſt price, and yet is there not enough of one cloth and colour to ſerve you; and as for to be purveyed in Suffolk, it will not be purveyed not now againſt the time, without they had had warning at Michaelmas, as I am informed: and the bleſſed Trinity have you in his keeping. Written at Norwich, on Saint Katherine's day.

By Your,

[4] MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich, 25th of November,
1455, or 1460.
34 or 39 H. VI.

[3] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 20.
N. B. St. Andrew's day fell on a Sunday, in the years 1455 and 1460; this Letter was therefore moſt probably written in one of theſe years.

LETTER LXV.

To my Maſter John Paſton.

PLEASE your maſterſhip to weet that I had ſent you word of the good cheer that the perſons ye wote of had here upon New Year's Day, and how well they took it, but W. Barker could plainly inform you; and John Sadler of Ocle (*Acle*) told

they av'nted of it when he of lynne came by hȳ at nyzt lyeng that he had neide^{r} bett^{r} chier &c. my maiſt^{r} demaundyth me ſondry tymes when ye ſhall be here j coude not ſey till thys day be paſſed. Williā [1] Geney ſhall be here to morn. ſo wold Ih's ye were her then J aſked licence to ryde yn to my Contree. And my maiſtr dyd not gr'unt it he ſeyd hys wille was for to make &c. y aunſuerd it fyt not me to know it. god gefe hȳ gr'ce of holſom Councell and of A gode diſpoſic'on. non eſt opus un^{s} diei nec un^{s} ſeptīane my lord Bedford wylle was made yn ſo bryeff and gen^{r}all t^{r}mys that yn to thys day by the ſpace of xx yeer can neide^{r}hafe ende but all wey new to Conſtrew and oppynable ſo A gen^{r}allte ſhall ne may be ſo gode as A p^{r}ticuler declaracon. j wryte blontly. J had foryete to hafe told yow maiſt^{r} Fylongley meoved me to enforme my maiſt^{r} to hafe a gen^{r}alle [2] peaſe ſo it myzt be worſhypfull y hafe ſeyd no word for j can not medle yn hygh mat's that paſſyth my wyt. And therfor yff ye and W. Geney mete to gheders ye know and can devyne beſt what y^{s} to be doon. our lord be w^{t} yow Wryt haſtly vj day januar.

[3] W. Botoner, Y. A.

11 ½ by 4.
Seal.
It appears to be St. John's
Head in a Charger.
Motto illegible.
Pl. xxiii. N° 4.

We ſee in this Letter Sir J. Faſtolf's deſire to make his Will, and the difficulties which would probably occur in making a proper one.

John Plantagenet, Duke of Bedford, died at Paris in 1435, we can therefore from that circumſtance aſcertain the date of this Letter, and for more particulars relative to that Duke's Will the Reader is referred to Letter XXVIII. Vol. i. p. 121.

[1] Sir William Jenney was made a Judge of the King's Bench about 1477, and died in 1483, and was buried at Thebarton, in Suffolk.

LET-

me how they avaunted of it when he of Lynn came by him at night lying, that he had neide[r] *(never)* better cheer, &c.

My Maſter demandeth (*aſketh*) me ſundry times when ye ſhall be here; I could not ſay till this day be paſſed; William [1] Jenney ſhall be here to morñ *(to-morrow)*, ſo would Jeſu ye were here then. I aſked licence to ride into my Country, and my Maſter did not grant it; he ſaid his Will was to make, &c. I anſwered, "it fit not me to know it." God give him grace of wholeſome counſel, and of a good diſpoſition, non eſt opus unius diei, nec unius ſeptimanæ.

My Lord Bedford's Will was made in ſo brief and general terms, that unto this day by the ſpace of twenty years can never have end, but always new to conſtrue, and opiniable; ſo a generality ſhall nor may be ſo good as a particular declaration.

I write bluntly; I had forgotten to have told you Maſter Fylongley moved me to inform my Maſter to have a general [2] peace, ſo it might be worſhipful. I have ſaid no word, for I cannot meddle in high matters that paſſeth my wit; and therefore if ye and W. Jenney meet together ye know and can divine beſt what is to be done. Our Lord be with you; writ haſtily, 6th day of January.

[3] W. BOTONER. H. R.

Caiſter,
6th of January,
1455. 34 H. VI.

[2] This ſeems to relate to Sir John's own private diſputes rather than to the public diſturbances.

[3] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 24. For ſome account of him ſee Letter XXV. Vol. i. p. 104. Note [1].

The impreſſion on the Seal of this Letter is curious, but it is too imperfect to be accurately made out, though I believe it is St. John's Head in a Charger; the Motto is quite illegible.

NUMBER LXVI.

bill' De debit's Reg's in prtibz Fr'ncie Johi Faſtolf militi debit'

THESE ben the Iniuries Loſſes and Damages that the ſeyd Faſtolf hath had as well withynne this Royaume of England as in othir parties in maner and fourme as it enſewith.

Firſt It is to conſider how that the ſeyd Faſtolf hath ben vexed and troubled ſeth he came laſt into this lande by the myght and power of the Duc of [1] Suffolk and by the labour of his counſeill and ſeruaunts in diuers Wyſes as in grete oppreſſions greuous and outrageous amerciemants and manye grete horrible extorcions as it may appere more pleynly by a rolle of Articles ther'uppon made the damages of which extenden to the ſomme of - - - - - V m^l m'rc

Item the ſeyd Faſtolf hath be gretely damaged and hurt by the myght and power of the ſeyd Duc of Suffolk and his Counſeill in Diſſeiſing and taking awey a maner of the ſeyd Faſtolf called Dedh'm in the Counte of Eſſex to the value of C m'rks of yerly Rent which was hal- V m'rc

[1] Many of the Letters in this Collection mention the diſputes between the Duke of Suffolk and Sir John Faſtolf concerning different Manors and Eſtates.

den

NUMBER LXVI.

Billa de debitis Regis in partibus Franciæ Johanni Faſtolf militi debitis.

THESE be the Injuries, Loſſes, and Damages that the ſaid Faſtolf hath had, as well within the Realm of England as in other parts in manner and form as it enſueth,

	£.	s.	d.
Firſt, it is to conſider how that the ſaid Faſtolf hath been vexed and troubled ſince he came laſt into this land by the might and power of the Duke of [1] Suffolk, and by the labour of his counſel and ſervants in divers wiſe, as in great oppreſſions, grievous and outrageous amercements, and many great horrible extortions, as it may appear more plainly by a roll of Articles thereupon made, the damages of which extend to the ſum of 5000 marks. =	3333	6	8
Item, the ſaid Faſtolf hath been greatly damaged and hurt by the might and power of the ſaid Duke of Suffolk and his counſel, in diſſeiſing and taking away a manor of the ſaid Faſtolf's, called Dedham, in the County of Eſſex, to the value of 100 marks (66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) of yearly rent, which was holden from the ſaid Faſ-	333	6	8

den from the ſeyd Faſtolf by the terme of iij yere day and more to his grete hurt with CC marks in coſts exſpended in Recouv^re of the ſame the ſome in all - - - - - - - - -

Item there ys caſt in to the kyngs hands by untrew forged offices and inquiſicions ſuppoſed to be founde by dyuers Eſchetours in the Countees of Norff' and Suffolk iij certeyn maners of the ſeyd Faſtolf to the value of C. m'rks yeerly which ſeyd offices and inquiſicions were nev^r dewly founde. but forged by untrue Imaginacons and meenys of certeyn perſones hys eville Will'rs as it hath be confeſſed by thos that were appoynted and named to be uppon the enqueſtys And by the maliciouſe labour of his ſeyd evylle will'rs and the ſeyd maners have ben troubled and put in plee this iiij yere day and more to the damage and coſts of the ſeyd Faſtolf the ſōme - - - - - - - - - - V^c m'rc.

Item the ſeyd Faſtolf hauying the yeft of the Baronyes and Lordſhipp of [2] Sillie Guill'm and Laſuze in the Countee of Mayn to hym and to his aſſignes for ev^r the which weren goten by the ſeyd Faſtolf and no charge to the King For the value and Denombrement of iiij m^l [3] ſaluz of yerly Rent he was commaunded by the

[2] Sir John took the Caſtle of Sillie le Guillem in 1425, and from which he was dignified with the title of Baron.

King's

	£.	s.	d.
tolf by the term of three year day and more, to his great hurt, with 200 marks (133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) in coſts expended in recovery of the ſame, the ſum in all - - - - - - 500 marks =			
Item, there is caſt into the King's hands by untrue forged offices and inquiſitions, ſuppoſed to be found by divers Eſcheators in the Counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, three certain Manors of the ſaid Faſtolf, to the value of 100 Marks (66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) yearly, which ſaid offices and inquiſitions were never duly found, but forged by untrue imaginations, and means of certain perſons his evil willers, as it hath been confeſſed by thoſe that were appointed and named to be upon the inqueſts. And by the malicious labour of his ſaid evil willers, the ſaid manors have been troubled and put in plea this four year day and more, to the damage and coſts of the ſaid Faſtolf, the ſum of 500 marks =	333	6	8
Item, the ſaid Faſtolf having the gift of the Baronies and Lordſhip of [2] Sillie Guillem and Laſuze, in the County of Mayne, to him and to his aſſigns for ever, the which were gotten by the ſaid Faſtolf, and no charge to the King, for the value and denomberment *(number)* of 4000 [3] Saluts of yearly rent, he was command-			

[3] The Salute was a gold coin of Henry VI. current in France for 1*l.* 5*s.* Engliſh.

ed

King's l'res to delive^{r} upp the ſayd Baronyes and lordſhipps to the Kyngs Commiſſioners p'myſſyng hym by the kyngs commaundement to have be Recompenſed therefor as the ſeyd Faſtolf hath to ſhewe and he not Recompenſed nor Rewarded no thing for the levyng of his ſeyd Baronyes and lordſhip to the damag's of the ſeyd Faſtolf of the ſomme of - - - - | m^{l} m^{l} v^{c} m'rc

Item Wher as the ſeyd Faſtolf had a Priſonner of his owen taking called Guill'm [4] Remond which was Raunſonned and agreed to pay hym for his Raunſon with the m'rks the ſomme of xxxij m^{l} ſaluz the priſonne^{r} withoute knowelege or licence of the ſeyd Faſtolf was take awey from hym by the Duc of Bedford then beyng the Kyngs Regent of Fraunce And with the ſeyd Priſonner he cauſed the Towne of Compyn than leyng in the Frenſh Partye ys gouuernaunce for to be yeldyn to the Kyng and to his ſeyd Regent in his name And the ſeyd Faſtolf after long Purſewts made to the Kyng and his Conſeill was Recompenſed but to the value of m^{l} vj^{c} ſaluz in lands in Normandye when they fortuned to falle into the Kyngs hands which lands he hath alſo loſt And alſo the ſeyd Faſtolf hath loſt the Reſidue of the ſeyd Raunſon beſyde the ſeyd lands to the ſomme of - | m^{l}.m^{l}.m^{l}.m^{l}.m'rc

[4] In 1423 he took the Caſtle of Pacy, the Governor whereof was Guilliaume Reymond.

Item

	£.	s.	d.
ed by the King's Letters to deliver up the said Baronies and Lordship to the King's Commissioners, promising him, by the King's commandment to be recompensed therefore, as the said Fastolf hath to shew, and he not recompensed nor rewarded nothing for the leaving of his said Baronies and Lordship, to the damages of the said Fastolf of the sum of 2500 marks =	1666	13	4
Item, Whereas the said Fastolf had a Prisoner of his own taking, called Guill'm ' Remond, which was ransomed, and agreed to pay him for his ransom with the marks the sum of 3200 Saluts, the Prisoner, without knowledge or license of the said Fastolf, was taken away from him by the Duke of Bedford, then being the King's Regent of France, and with the said Prisoner he caused the town of Compeyn, then lying in the French party's governance, for to be yielded to the King, and to his said Regent in his name; and the said Fastolf, after long pursuits made to the King and his Council, was recompensed but to the value of 1600 Saluts in lands in Normandy, when they fortuned to fall into the King's hands, which lands he hath also lost; and also the said Fastolf hath lost the residue of the said ransom, besides the said lands, to the sum of 4000 marks - - - - - - - =	2666	13	4

Item the ſeyd Faſtolf ys yhyt owyng for his porcion and part for the Recompens and Reward that ſhuld grow and be dewe to hym for the takyng of Iohn callyng hym Duc of Alauncon at the Batayle of [5] Vernell Which that payd for hys Raunſon xl m^{l} m'rks Which Rewarde beſyde the lord Wyllughbye ys part ſhuld extend to the ſomme of - - - - - - - } m^{l}.m^{l}.m^{l}.m^{l}.m'rc

Item ys dewe to the ſeyd Faſtolf by the execucion of the laſt wylle and teſtamēt of John Duc of [6] Bedford whos ſoule god aſſoyle for Preſtys and othir Chargs for ſaufgarde and keping of certeyn fortereſſes Caſtellys and Townes and for othir coſts preſts and chargs by hym born in his ſervice As it may appiere in certeyn Articles Writen in a Rolle partic'lerly of the ſame the ſomme of - - - - - - - - - } iiij^{ml} D^{c} iiij^{xx} xix. m'rc v^{s}. vj^{d}.

S'm To^{l} xxj^{ml}. iiij^{xx} xix marc v^{s} vj^{d}.

Item ſeth the [7] laſt Comyng ove^{r} of the ſeyd Faſtolf into this Royaume as by the ſpace of xv yere and more he hath born grete coſts chargs and expenſs at alle tymes intending uppon the kyngs highneſſe and the lordes of his Counſeille as he hath had in Commaundemēt And

[5] This battle was fought in 1424.
[6] See Letter XXVIII. vol. i. p. 120.

was

	£.	s.	d.
Item, the ſaid Faſtolf is yet owing for his portion and part for the recompence and reward that ſhould grow and be due to him for the taking of John, calling himſelf Duke of Alanſon, at the battle of [5] Verneuil, which that paid for his ranſom 40000 marks (26666*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*), which reward, beſide the Lord Willoughby's part, ſhould extend to the ſum of 4000 marks =	2666	13	4
Item, is due to the ſaid Faſtolf, by the execution of the Laſt Will and Teſtament of John Duke of [6] Bedford, whoſe ſoul God aſſoil! for Preſts and other Charges for ſafeguard and keeping of certain Fortreſſes, Caſtles, and Towns, and for other coſts, preſts, and charges by him borne in his ſervice, as it may appear in certain Articles written in a roll particularly of the ſame, the ſum of - - 4599 *marks.* 5*s.* 6*d.* =	3066	5	6
Sum total 21099 *marks.* 5 *ſh.* 6 *pence.* =	14066	5	6

Item, Since the laſt [7] coming over of the ſaid Faſtolf into this realm, as by the ſpace of 15 years and more, he hath borne great coſts, charges, and expences, at all times attending upon the King's Highneſs, and the Lords of his Council, as he hath had in commandment, and was his

[7] Sir John finally left France in 1440, this Account therefore was drawn up in 1455. 33 H. VI.

was his part to doo For the which and for all the ſeruice that he hath doo to the Right noble Prince Kyng Herry the iiij^{the} Ayle to our Souu^{r}agn lord that now ys And to the moſt victorious prince and kyng his fader whos ſoulys god aſſoyle And alſo to our ſeyd Souuereyn lord he hath had nouther fee wagys Reward ne Recompenſe in this his Royaume of England but hath born it of hys own propre godys at all tymys to the Kyngs hono^{r} and prouffit as to his power Which ys to hym Right greuouſe and chargeable truſting to have be conſidered and Rewarded as othir men of ſuche Deſeruyng have be in the tymes of the Right noble progenitours of our ſeyd ſouu^{r}eyn lords late Kyngs of this ſeyd Reaume.

11 ½ by 17.
Paper Mark,
a Bull's Head and Star, &c.
Pl. x. N° 3.

NUMBER LXVIJ.

A Declaracōn of the Coſts which Sr John Faſtolf was at bē wthout this Royaume.

THE Declaracions of certeyn Preſts Coſtys and Chargys Don and born by Sir John Faſtolf aſwel in the tyme of the moſte noble and victoryouſe princes of bleſſed memorie Kyng Herry

part to do, for the which, and for all the ſervice that he hath done to the right noble Prince King Harry the IV. Ayeul (*grandfather*) to our Sovereign Lord that now is, and to the moſt victorious Prince and King his father, whoſe ſouls God aſſoil, and alſo to our ſaid Sovereign Lord, he hath had neither fee, wages, reward, nor recompence in this his realm of England, but hath borne it of his own proper goods at all times to the King's honour and profit, as to his power, which is to him right grievous and chargeable, truſting to have been conſidered and rewarded as other men of ſuch deſerving have been in the times of the right noble Progenitors of our ſaid Sovereign Lords late Kings of this ſaid Realm.

1455. 33 H. VI.

NUMBER LXVII.

A Declaration of the Coſts which Sir John Faſtolf was at, being without this Realm.

THE Declaration of certain Preſts, (*Loans*) Coſts, and Charges, done and borne by Sir John Faſtolf, as well in the time of the moſt noble and victorious Princes of bleſſed me-

Herry the iiij^the^. Kyng Herry v^th^ as in the tyme of our ſouuereyn lord Kyng that now is in hys Werrys by yend the See as by the Articles that folowen more pleynly apperyth.

Firſt It ys to be Remembred that to the ſayd Faſtolf ys owyng for diuers Coſtys and chargis by hym born for the tyme that he occupied thoffice of the Conſtabulrye of Burdeux for the ſaufgarde of the Kyngys Duchie of Guyen as it apperith pleynlye by accompt made of the ſayd office of Conſtabulrye Remaynyng in the kyngs Cheker at Weſtm^r^ of Record Wherof he yet nouther had payement nor aſſignement of the ſomme of - - - - - - ij^c^ xxvij li xv^s^ iij^d^ ob

Item in like wyſe there ys owyng to the ſeyd Faſtolf for Wagys for hys ſeruice don to the Kyng and to the Duc of Clarence beyng the Kyng ys lieutenant in the ſeyd Duchie of Guyen as it may appere under ſuffiſaunt Writing the ſomme of - - - - - - - ij^c^ ij li x s

As there are not only ſeveral Letters in this Collection of the hand-writing of that renowned warrior Sir John Faſtolf, but as he is likewiſe mentioned in many others, I thought the two following ſtatements of ſums of money due to him from the Crown would be acceptable to the Reader, as they aſcertain ſeveral of his enterprizes in France, and point out to us the two priſoners which he took in the French wars, and who, by the large ſums agreed to be paid for their ranſom, muſt have been perſons of great conſequence in the military line.

This firſt declaration relates entirely to money due to him on the account of the wars and tranſactions in France. The ſecond ſtates the injuries and loſſes which he had ſuſtained both in England and France.

There is no date to either of them, but from the mention of the time ſince his laſt return from France, and which, from an account of his life appears to have been in the year 1440, theſe repreſentations were made in the year 1455, 33 H. VI.

mory, King Harry the IVth. King Harry Vth. as in the time of our Sovereign Lord King that now is in his wars beyond the Sea, as by the Articles that follow more plainly appeareth.

	£.	s.	d.
First, it is to be remembered that to the ſaid Faſtolf is owing for divers coſts and charges by him borne for the time that he occupied the office of the Conſtabulary of Bourdeaux, for the ſafe guard of the King's Duchy of Guyenne, as it appeareth plainly by account made of the ſaid office of Conſtabulary, remaining in the King's Exchequer at Weſtminſter of record, whereof he yet neither had payment nor aſſignment, the ſum of - - - -	227	15	3½
Item, in like wiſe there is owing to the ſaid Faſtolf for wages for his ſervice done to the King, and to the Duke of Clarence, being the King's Lieutenant in the ſaid Duchy of Guyenne, as it may appear under ſufficient writing, the ſum of - - - - -	202	10	0

Sir John Faſtolf, Knight, was born about 1377, the laſt year of the reign of King Edward III. and loſt his father during his minority. In 1408, 10 H. IV. he married in Ireland, Milicent, daughter of Robert Lord Tibetot, and widow of Sir Stephen Scroope, by whom ſhe then had one ſon.

Sir John was ſoon after engaged to ſerve in the French wars, by Thomas of Lancaſter, Duke of Clarence, and continued in that ſervice with great honour to himſelf, and credit to his country till the year 1440, when he finally returned, and ſettled in his native country, where he lived in great ſtate and hoſpitality, finiſhing a long and well ſpent life in 1459, being then about 83 years of age, and leaving no iſſue to inherit his vaſt poſſeſſions, he bequeathed a great part of them to charitable and uſeful purpoſes.

Item,

Item in lyke wyſe ys owyng to the ſeyd Faſtolf for coſtys and chargys that he bare when he was lieutenant of the Towne of [1] Harflew in Normandie as yt ſhewith by a debentur made to the ſeyd Faſtolf with hym Remaynyng - - - - - - Cxxxiij li vjs viijd.

Item in lyke wyſe ys owyng to the ſeyd Faſtolf for the Keping and vytaylyng of the [2] Baſtyle of Saint Anthoyne in Paris as it apperith by writing ſuffiſaunt and by the Creditours of Sir John [3] Tyrell knyght late Treſourier of the Kyngs houſe Remaynyng in the Eſcheker of Weſtmr of Record the ſomme of xlij li.

Item there ys owyng to the ſeyd Faſtolf for the ſaufgarde of the Toune of Pount [4] Melank in the Parties of Fraunce as it apperith by accompt therof made in the Kyngs Eſcheker of England of Record the ſomme of - - iiijxx ix li. xs. iiijd. ob. q.

S'ml. xlij mlrc. ixs. q. - - - -

And in ſemblable wyſe oulr all this ys owyng to the ſeyd Faſtolf For preſts and wagys of hym and his Retenues beyng in the Kings ſeruice in

[1] Sir John Faſtolf was Lieutenant of Harfleur, in 1415.

[2] The foundation of this ſince terrible priſon, was laid by Hugh Aubriot on the 22d of April 1369, 43 of our King Edward III. and the 6th of Charles V. of France.

his

	£.	s.	d.
Item, in like wiſe is owing to the ſaid Faſtolf for Coſts and Charges that he bare when he was Lieutenant of the Town of [1] Harfleur, in Normandy, as it ſheweth by a Debenture made to the ſaid Faſtolf *(and)* with him remaining.	133	6	8
Item, in likewiſe is owing to the ſaid Faſtolf for the keeping and victualling of the [2] Baſtile of St. Anthony in Paris, as it appeareth by writing ſufficient, and by the Creditors of Sir John [3] Tyrel, Knight, late Treaſurer of the King's Houſe, remaining in the Exchequer of Weſtminſter of record, the ſum of - -	42	0	0
Item, there is owing to the ſaid Faſtolf for the ſafe-guard of the Town of Pount [4] Melank in the parts of France, as it appeareth by account thereof, made in the King's Exchequer of England of record, the ſum of - -	89	10	4¾
Sum m^l^ xlij marks ix Sh. 1 Farthing.			
And in ſemblable wiſe over all this is owing to the ſaid Faſtolf for Preſts and Wages of him and his Retinues being in the King's ſervice			

[3] He was grandfather to Sir James Tyrel, the ſuppoſed murderer of Edward V. and his brother.

[4] Port Meuſent was taken in 1422.

his Royaume of Fraunce and Duchie of [5] Normandie as wel abowte the ſaufgarde and gouu[r]naunce of his tounys Caſtell and fortereſſes of Alaunſon Freſney le Vicounte Vernell Honneflete As for othir grete cauſys and charges born and payd in the kyng our ſouuereyn lord ys Dayes that nowys forthe auauncement of his Conqueſt the good and utilite of hym of his ſeyd Royaume and Duchie forſeid As it apperyth oppenly by accomptys made in the Chambre of Accompts of Paris and Roon Wherof the vidimus remaynen with the ſeyd Faſtolf And alſo by c[r]teyn Debentur Conteynyng the ſeyd ſommes Redy to ſhewe Wherof the ſeyd Faſtolf hiderto hath had nouther payement nor aſſignacion the ſomme of - - - - - v m[l]. iiij[xx]. ij marc. xiij[s]. iij[d]. ob. ſt[r]ling.

S'to[l] vj m[l]. cxxv m'rc. ix[s]. ob q.

[5] Sir John was ſeveral years governor of Normandy, I believe from about 1423 to 1440, when he left France.

11 ½ by 17, being a whole Sheet of ſtout and fine Paper, having the Paper Mark of a Bull's Head and Star, &c. Pl. x. N° 3.

LET-

	£.	s.	d.
in his realm of France and Duchy of [5] Normandy, as well about the ſafe-guard and governance of his Towns, Caſtles, and Fortreſſes of Alanſon, Freſney, Le Vicounte, Verneil, Hounefleet, as for other great cauſes and charges borne and paid in the King our Sovereign Lord's days that now is, for the advancement of his conqueſt, the good and utility of him, of his ſaid Realm and Duchy aforeſaid, as it appeareth openly by accounts made in the Chamber of Accounts of Paris and Roan, whereof the Vidimus remain with the ſaid Faſtolf, and alſo by certain Debenture containing the ſaid Sums, ready to ſhew, whereof the ſaid Faſtolf hitherto hath had neither payment nor aſſignation, The ſum of v m^{l} iiij^{xx} ij marks xiij Sh. iij^{d} $\frac{1}{2}$ ſterling - - - - - - =	3388	13	3$\frac{1}{2}$
Sum total vj m^{l} cxxv marks, ix Sh. od. 3 Farthings ſterling - =	4083	15	7$\frac{1}{2}$

1455. 33 H. VI.

LETTER LXVIII.

To our right truſte and right welbeloved John Paſton Eſquier And Will'm Norwiche and to either of theym.

RIGHT truſte and right welbeloved We grete you hertly wel. And where as Sr. Nichol Bowet Knight ſueth an appeelle in the Countee of Norff. ayenſt oon Robert Offord of Berking for the Deeth of oon Sr. Henry Bowet Clerc. We being enfo med yt the matier is pitevous praie you hertly yt ye wul in our behalve moeve and entreete the Shirreve of the ſaide Countee to ſurceeſe of y' execucion of any prceſſe upon y' [1] exigent to hym directed in yat behalve unto ys next tme ſo yt reſonable meanes maye be founden to ſave the ſaide Robert harmeleſſe. Lating hym wite yt we have written to the ſaide Sr Nichol for a cōvenient treetie to be taken in that behalve as ſhalbe thought according to right. And god have you ever in his keping. Written in our Manoir of Mortelake the vij Daie of Septemb'r.

[2] T. Archbpſshopp of Cantburp.

11 ½ by 4.

This Letter was moſt probably written during the time that the Archbiſhop was Lord Chancellor, and it may be ſuppoſed that this Robert Offord had been tried and acquitted upon an indictment for the Murder, and that now the next of kin to the deceaſed, not being ſatisfied with the Verdict, had lodged his Appeal.

[1] The Exigent is a Writ, requiring the appearance of the party, and if he come not at the laſt proclamation he is out-lawed.

LET-

LETTER LXVIII.

To our right trusty and right well beloved John Paston, Esq. and William Norwich, and to either of them.

RIGHT trusty and right well beloved, We greet you heartily well; And whereas Sir Nichol Bowet, Knight, sueth an appeal in the County of Norfolk, against one Robert Offord of Barking, for the death of one Sir Henry Bowet, Clerk. We, being informed that the matter is piteous, pray you heartily that ye will in our behalf move and entreat the Sheriff of the said County to surcease of the execution of any process upon the [1] Exigent to him directed in that behalf unto the next term, so that reasonable means may be found to save the said Robert harmless; letting him weet that we have written to the said Sir Nichol for a convenient treaty to be taken in that behalf, as shall be thought according to right. And God have you ever in his keeping.

Written in our Manor of Mortlake, the 7th day of September.

[2] T. { ARCHBISHOP of CANTERBURY.

Mortlake, in Surry,
7th of September,
Between 1455 and 1458.
34 and 37 H. VI.

[2] Thomas Bourchier, Archbishop of Canterbury, from 1454 to 1486, and Lord Chancellor from 1455 to 1457.
Autograph. Pl. I. N° 9.

LET-

LETTER LXIX.

AFTER humble and due recommendacion pleaſe it your gode maiſterſhip to underſtand that atte makyng of this my pour lett^{r}. ther were no noveltees w^{t}. us but ſuche as yee underſtode full well afor yor. dep^{r}tyng Except the kyng woll in to Scotland in all man^{r}. wyſe of werre and that my lord of Weltſhire ſhal be made Chaunceller I ſuppoſe the bett^{r}. is but a ſclaunder and therfore be ye aviſed howe ye delyver theym as tidynges Alſo I wotte full well where j lefte you in ſuche matiers as it pleaſſed you to make me of your Counſell as touchyng oon matier ſp'ally and howe that ye ſaid unto me whenne I deſired your goode maiſterſhip to ſhewe favour in ſuche as ye beſt myght yf any thing ſhuld be ſhewed ad lumen my maiſter F. except and howe that ye anſwered and ſaid as it pleaſſed you that I was conquered in trouth that ſhuld preve but a full grete unſtabulnes in me w^{t}. more &c. but ſ' I p^{r}y you howe ſome ever my maiſter rekeneth w^{t}. any of his ſ^{r}unts bring not the matier in revolution in the open Courte for and it were ones opened afore the Iuges howe that any l're patentes ſhuld be p^{r}chaſed of an ante date And the defaute faunde in me ye wold be a m^{l}. tymes aviſed and my maiſter F. both or that ye wold amend me ſoo much as I ſhuld be appered therbe And therfor I beſeche you be well

This Letter has no direction, and is only ſubſcribed with the initials H. W. from the hand-writing however it appears to have been written by Henry Windſor, and by the contents we may diſcover it was addreſſed to J. Paſton.

LETTER LXIX.

AFTER humble and due recommendation, pleaſe it your good maſterſhip to underſtand, that at making of this my poor Letter there were no novelties with us, but ſuch as ye underſtood full well afore your departing, except the King will into Scotland in all manner wiſe of war, and that my Lord of Wiltſhire ſhall be made Chancellor, I ſuppoſe the better is but a ſlander, and therefore be ye adviſed how ye deliver them as tidings.

Alſo I weet full well where I left you in ſuch matters as it pleaſed you to make me of your counſel, as touching one matter ſpecially, and how that ye ſaid unto me when I deſired your good maſterſhip to ſhew favour, ſuch as ye beſt might if any thing ſhould be ſhewed ad lumen, my Maſter F *(Faſtolf)* except, and how that ye anſwered and ſaid as it pleaſed you, that I was conquered, in truth that ſhould prove but a full great unſtableneſs in me with more, &c. But Sir, I pray you, how ſome-ever my Maſter reckoneth with any of his Servants, bring not the matter in revolution in the open Court, for and *(if)* it were once opened before the Judges, how that any Letters Patent ſhould be purchaſed of an ante date, and the default found in me, ye would be a thouſand times adviſed and my Maſter F. *(Faſtolf)* both, ere that ye would amend me ſo much as I ſhould be appered *(impaired)* thereby; and therefore I beſeech you be well adviſed how that matter be opened for my eaſe.

The character he gives of his Maſter Sir John Faſtolf is not a very pleaſing one, and from his ſaying that whatever is done, will "be called your dede," it appears to have been ſent to J. Paſton in the latter part of Sir John Faſtolf's life, when his Couſin Paſton tranſacted moſt of his buſineſs.

I was

aviſed howe that matier be oponed for myn eaſe. I was not deſired to write unto you of no on p[r]ſone ſo god be my help yourſelf except But I wold ye wold take aviſe and counſell of the Preeſt that hadde you ſoo long under hand on [z] Shorthurſday whenne I and my feleſhip god thank you hadde of you right grete chere to our grete comfort and your grete Coſte. howe that the ſame Preeſt underſtandeth this lett[r]. of the Goſpell underwriten [z] IHS. dixit Simoni Petro Si peccavit in te frat[r]. tuus vade & corripe eum int[r]. te & ip'm ſolum Si te audierit lucratus es frēm tuū Si autem te non audierit adhibe tecum adhuc unū vel duos ut in ore duor' vel triū teſtiū ſtet omē v[r]bum quod ſi non audierit dic ec'clie Si autem ec'cliam non audierit Sit tibi Sicut ethinicus & publicanus, &c. And in another place Tunc accedens Petrus ad IH'm dixit (Dñe) quotiens petevit in me frat[r]. meus dimittam ei uſq; ſepties dicit illi IHs Non dico tibi uſq; ſepties ſet uſq; ſeptuageſies ſepties, my maiſt[r]. can doo no thing the which ſhall come in open audience at thiſe deies but it ſhalbe called your dede hit is not unknoon that cruell and vengible he hath byn ever and for the moſt parte w[t]. aute pite and m[r]cy I can no more but vade & corripe eum for truly he cannot bryng about his matiers in this word for the word is not for hym I ſuppoſe it Wolnot chaunge yetts be likelenes but j beſeche you ſir help not to amend hym onely by ev[r]y other man yf ye kno any mo myſſe diſpoſed I canno more but as I can or mey I ſhal be his S[r]unt and youres unto ſuch tyme as ye woll Comande me to ſurſeſe and leve of yf it pleaſe hym Sir I p'y you take

[z] Shere or Shore Thurſday, Maundy Thurſday, the day before Good Friday.

this

I was not desired to write unto you of no one person, so God be my help, yourself except; but I would ye would take advice and counsel of the Priest, that had you so long under hands on [1] Shor Thursday, when I and my fellowship, God thank you, had of you right great cheer to our great comfort and your great cost. How that the same Priest understandeth this Letter of the Gospel under written, [2] Jesus dixit Simoni Petro, si peccavit in te frater tuus, vade et corripe cum inter te et ipsum solum; si te audierit lucratus es fratrem tuum, si autem te non audierit adhibe tecum adhuc unum vel duos, ut in ore duorum vel trium testium stet omne verbum. Quod si non audierit, dic ecclesiæ, si autem ecclesiam non audierit sit tibi sicut ethinicus et Publicanus, &c." And in another place "Tunc accedens Petrus ad Jesum dixit, Domine quotiens petevit *(quoties peccabit)* in me frater meus, dimittam ei usque septies? Dicit illi Jesus, non dico tibi usque septies, sed usque septuagesies septies."

My Master can do nothing, the which shall come in open audience at these days, but it shall be called your deed, and it is not unknown that cruel and vengible (*revengeful*) he hath been ever and for the most part without pity and mercy, I can no more, but "vade et corripe eum" for truly he cannot bring about his matters in this word (*world*) for the word (*world*) is not for him, I suppose it will not change yet by likelinesss, but I beseech you Sir, help not to amend him only, but every other man, if ye know any more misdisposed.

I can no more, but as I can or may shall be his servant and yours unto such time as ye will command me to surcease and leave off, if it please him.

[2] St. Matthew's Gospel, Chap. xviii. v. 15, 16, 17, and v. 21, 22.

this [3] Copy of your ſtatute it is not examined be me for I found hit thiſe v yeres peſſed Writan in my [4] ſlepyng tyme at after none on Wytſonday Alſo Sir yf I have reherſed wyttyngly the text of the Goſpell ſyngularly unto your maiſt'ſhip I beſeche you to be had excuſed.

Your own,

[5] H. W.

12 by 9 ½.

[3] This relates to papers ſent with this Letter, and accounts for there being no direction, as the whole was encloſed in a parcel.

[4] We are here made acquainted with the cuſtom of H. Windſor, of ſleeping after dinner at afternoon; perhaps as the hours of riſing were early, it might be uſual for people

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LETTER LXX.

To my right honorabull
and right wurſhipful lord
my lord Viſcont
[1] *Beaument.*

RIGHT honorabull and my right wurſhipfull lord I recōaund me unto yo[r] gode lordſhip with all my ſ'vice ev'mere deſ'eng to here of yo[r] p'ſp'ite and Welfare the which I p'y god encres and cōtynue to his pleſur and aft' yo[r] oone

To us who live in theſe days thoſe lawleſs proceedings ſeem terrible, but in the tumultuous times here treated of, ſuch occurrences were too frequent; and the period here exhibited, diſtracted by civil diſſenſions, made them ſtill more common.

This Letter muſt have been written between 1455, 33 H. VI. and 1460. 39 H. VI.

herts

Sir, I pray you take this [3] Copy of your Statute, it is not examined by me, for I found it theſe five years paſſed.

Written in my [4] ſleeping time, at afternoon, on Whitſunday. Alſo, Sir I have rehearſed wittingly the text of the Goſpel ſingularly unto your maſterſhip, I beſeech you to be had excuſed.

Your own,

[5] HENRY WINDSOR.

Whitſunday,
May or June,
Between 1455 and 1459.
33 and 38 H. VI.

people in general to do ſo, as it is ſtill practiſed in the families of many early riſing farmers, &c.

[5] Autograph. Pl. III. N° 32.

LETTER LXX.

To my right honourable and right worſhipful Lord, my Lord Viſcount [1] *Beaumont.*

RIGHT honourable and my right worſhipful Lord, I recommend me unto your good Lordſhip with all my ſervice, ever more deſiring to hear of your proſperity and welfare, the which I pray God encreaſe and continue to his pleaſure, and

[1] John Beaumont was created Viſcount Beaumont in 1439, and was killed in the battle of Northampton in 1460.

herts deſire thankyng you of the gode lordſhip y^{t} ye have ſhewed me at all tymes beſeching you alway of gode cōtynuance pleſid yor gode lordſhip to be remembred how afore this tyme hugh Wythom hath ſaid he wold be in reſt and peeſe w^{t} me and not to maligne agayn me oy^{r}wiſe yan lawe and right wold that notwithſtandyng upon Munday laſt paſt he and iij men w^{t} hī come unto a ſ^{r}unt hous of myn in boſton cald Williā Shirref and y'as he ſete at his werke ſtroke him upon the hede and in the body with a Dagg^{r} and Wondet him ſore and pulled him out of his hous and ſet him in p^{r}ſon w^{t}out any cauſe reſonabull or w^{t}out Writ or any oy' p^{r}ceſſe ſhewid unto him and y^{t} me ſemes longs not for hī to do bot as he ſays he is endited and as yor gode lordſhip knawes wele J and all my ſ^{r}unts are in like wiſe bot and any man ſhuld have done hit it longs either to the Shirref or to yor baliff as I conceyve and oy^{r} cauſe he had non to him as fer as I kan knawe bot awnly for the maliſſiouſneſs y^{t} he hath unto me ne I kan think non oy^{r} bot it is ſo. and now yiſtre nyght my lord Welles come to boſton w^{t} iiij^{xx} horſes and in ye mornyng foloyng toke hym out of p'ſon ſaying afore all peepll fals thefe y^{u} ſhall be hanged and as mony of thy maiſtre men as may be goten as yor ſ^{r}unt John Abbot kan report unto yor gode lordſhip and hath taken him away with him to Tateſſall what to do w^{t} him I kan not ſay bot as I ſuppoſe to have him to lincoln Caſtell Wherfore I beſech yor gode lordſhip in yis mat^{r} to be my gode lord and it pleaſe yor gode lordſhip to write a lett^{r}.

to

after your own heart's deſire; and thanking you of the good Lordſhip that ye have ſhewed me at all times, beſeeching you alway of good continuance.

Pleaſe it your good Lordſhip to be remembered how afore this time Hugh Wytham hath ſaid he would be in reſt and peace with me, and not to malign againſt me, otherwiſe than law and right would; that notwithſtanding, upon Monday laſt paſt, he and three men with him came into a ſervant's houſe of mine in Boſton, called William Sheriff, and there as he ſat at his work ſtruck him upon the head, and in the body with a dagger, and wounded him ſore, and pulled him out of his houſe, and ſet him in priſon without any cauſe reaſonable, or without writ, or any other proceſs ſhewed unto him; and that me ſeems longs (*belongs*) not for him to do, but as he ſays he is indicted, and as your good Lordſhip knows well, I and all my ſervants are in like wiſe, but and any man ſhould have done it, it longs either to the Sheriff or to your Bailiff, as I conceive, and other cauſe he had none to him as far as I can know, but only for the maliciouſneſs of that he hath unto me, nor I can think none other but it is ſo. And now yeſter night my Lord Welles came to Boſton with four ſcore horſes, and in the morning following, took him out of priſon, ſaying afore all people "falſe thief thou ſhalt be hanged, and as many of thy maſter's men as may be gotten," as your ſervant John Abbot can report unto your good Lordſhip, and hath taken him away with him to Tatterſhall, what to do with him I cannot ſay, but as I ſuppoſe to have him to Lincoln Caſtle; wherefore I beſeech your good Lordſhip in this matter to be my good Lord, and that it pleaſe your good Lordſhip to write

to the kep'e of the Caſtell of lincoln y^{t} it liked him to deliv^{r} him out of p^{r}ſon undre a ſufficient ſeurety had for him for and thai may kepe him ſtill be yis meyne yai may take all the ſ^{r}unts y^{t} I have and ſo I may do agayn in like wiſe And alſo as I am enfo^{r}med w^{t}out he be had out of p'ſon in haſt it will be right gravewis to hī to heile of his hurt he is ſo ſore ſtreken and if y' be any ſ^{r}vice y^{t} yor gode lordſhip will cōaund me to do in any cuntre pleſid you to ſend me word and it ſhal be done to my power w^{t} the g'ce of god which have you my right honorabull and wurſhipfull lord alway in his bleſſid kepyng Writen at Kyme upon Wedneſday next aft^{r} our lądi day the Aſſumpcion.

Alſo pleſid yor gode lordſhip to wit aft^{r} yis lett^{r}. was made y^{r} come a man fro Tateſſall. into my fenne which og'h me gode will and be cauſe he wold not be holden ſuſpect he ſpeke w^{t} wemen which were mylkand kȳe and bad yeme goo to a preeſt of myn to Dokdike and bid him faſt goo gif me warnyng how y^{t} my lord [2] Wilughby my lord [3] Cromwell and my lord [4] Welles p^{r}poſid yeme to ſet a ſeſſions and hang y^{e} ſaid Williā Shirref and yai myght bryng y' entent abowte and ſo as I and yor ſ^{r}unt Iohn Abbot ſtode to ged^{r} ye preſt Come and gaf me Warnyng herof Which I truſt for my worſhip yor gode lordſhip wold not ſhuld happen for it wer to me the gretteſt ſhame y^{t} myght falle bot and it pleſe yor gode lordſhip to write to all yor ſ^{r}unts in yis Cuntr' yat yai will be redy upon a day Warnyng to come when I ſend

[2] Richard Welles, a ſon of Lionel, Lord Welles, married Joanna, daughter and heir to Robert Lord Willoughby, in whoſe right he was, in 1455, ſummoned to parliament as Lord Willoughby, of Ereſby.

write a Letter to the keeper of the Caſtle of Lincoln, that it liked him to deliver him out of priſon under a ſufficient ſurety had for him, for and *(if)* they may keep him ſtill by this mean they may take all the ſervants that I have, and ſo I may do again in like wiſe.

And alſo as I am informed without he be had out of priſon in haſte, it will be right grievous to him to heal of his hurt, he is ſo ſore ſtricken; and if there be any ſervice that your good Lordſhip will command me to do in any country, pleaſe it you to ſend me word, and it ſhall be done to my power with the grace of God, which have you my right honourable and worſhipful Lord alway in his bleſſed keeping. Written at Kyme, upon Wedneſday next after our Lady's day, the Aſſumption, (*15th Auguſt.*)

Alſo, pleaſe it your good Lordſhip to weet after this Letter was made there came a man from Tatterſhall, unto my fenn, which ought me good will, and becauſe he would not be holden ſuſpect, he ſpake with women which were milking kyne, and bad them go to a Prieſt of mine to Dokdyke, and bid him faſt go give me warning, how that my Lord [2] Willoughby, my [3] Lord Cromwell, and my Lord [4] Welles propoſed then to ſet a Seſſions, and hang the ſaid William Sheriff, and they might bring the intent about; and ſo, as I and your ſervant John Abbot ſtood together, the Prieſt came and gave me warning hereof, which I truſt for my worſhip your good Lordſhip would not ſhould happen, for it were to me the greateſt ſhame that might fall, but, and it pleaſe your good Lordſhip to write to all your ſervants in this country, that they will be ready upon a day's warning to

[3] This I think muſt be Henry Lord Cromwell.
[4] Lionel Lord Welles, fell in the battle of Towton, in 1461.

come

yeme word. I truſt to god yai ſhal not hang him agayn the lawe bot I w^{t} help of yor gode lordſhip ſhall be abull to let hit.

By yor S^{r}vūt,

[5] Willia' Tailboys.

11 ½ by 10 ½.

[5] Who the writer William Talboys was I have not been able to make out, but it is plain by his requeſting the attendance of Lord Beaumont's ſervants, &c. that he meant to

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LETTER LXXJ.

To my rith w^{r}ſhepfull
hoſbond Ion Paſton.

RITH worchipfull hoſbond I recōmawnd me to yow prayīg you to wete that ther is a gret noyſe in y^{is} town y^{t} my lord of oxforth and yelv^{r}ton and ye ben endytid in Kent for mayntenyng of ye [1] oy^{r} det^{r}myn^{r} and Ion Dame is endytyd yer alſo of treſon be cawſe y^{t} he dede Heydon endytyn of Treſon for takyng down of ye quart^{r} of the man And the pepyll y^{t} ben ayens Ser thomas Todenham and Heydon ben ſore aferd be

This Letter ſhews the terrible effects of civil commotions to individuals, who riſe or fall as their party gains or loſes any advantage.

This Earl of Oxford and Sir Thomas Todenham were afterwards beheaded in the beginning of the reign of Edward IV.

cawſe

come when I ſend them word; I truſt to God they ſhall not hang him againſt the law, but I, with help of your good Lordſhip, ſhall be able to let it.

By your Servant,

[5] WILLIAM TAILBOYS.

Kyme, in Lincolnſhire,
Wedneſday, Auguſt.
Between 1455 and 1460. 33 and 39 H. VI.

to repel force by force, and to reſcue his ſervant from a violent death, if he ſhould be ſo fortunate as to overcome his adverſaries. Autograph. Pl. xix. N° 19.

LETTER LXXI.

To my right worſhipful Huſband John Paſton.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I recommend me to you, praying you to weet that there is a great noiſe in this town, that my Lord of Oxford and Yelverton and ye be endited in Kent for maintaining of the [1] Oyer and Determiner, and John Damme is indited there alſo of treaſon, becauſe that he did Heydon inditen of treaſon for taking down of the quarter of the man; and the people that be againſt Sir Thomas Todenham, and Heydon be ſore afraid becauſe of this noiſe, and of other

[1] A Commiſſion of Oyer and Terminer is the largeſt of the five Commiſſions by which our Judges of Aſſiſe now ſit in their ſeveral Circuits. It was wont in former times to be only in uſe upon ſome ſudden outrage or inſurrection in any place.

cawſe of yis noyſe and of oyr langage that is had boye in yis town and in ye contr' yt yeſe ſeyd todenh'm and Heydon ſhuld ben as well at eſe and have as gr'tt rewill as evr they hadde Iamys Gloys tellith me yt he hath ſent yow word of Heydonys hors and of oyr thyngs mor of whiche I was purpoſid to aſent yow word of The holy t'nyte have yow in kepyng Wretyn at Norwiche the Weddenyſday next after Seynt Mathy.

Yowris,

[a] M. P.

8 ¼ by 3 ½.

[a] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25. Seal, a Fleur de lys. Pl. XXIII. N° 7.

LETTER LXXII.

To my Right wurſhipfull
Coſyn John Paſton eſquyer.

RYGHT worſhippfull and enterly belovyd Coſyn I comaund me to yow hertyly Latyng yow wete that there ys a contraverſie mevyd be twix my Coſyn Iohn [1] Radeclyff of attylburgh and me for the Advoweſon of the chirch of Attylburgh the whech ys new voide wheroff the title is myn veryly as god knowith the whech ſhall be oppenyd unto yow And upon Thurſday next atte Wymondh'm there ſhall be take an enquerre de

It appears that Lady Ogard's Couſin and Counſel aſſiſted her to good purpoſe, for on the 2d of Auguſt, 1456, we find that Maſter Thomas Fairclowe, D. D. was preſented by her to the Church of Attleborough.

jure

language that is had both ia this town and in the country, that theſe ſaid Todenham and Heydon ſhould be as well at eaſe, and have as great rule as ever they had.

James Gloys telleth me, that he hath ſent you word of Heydon's horſe (*whores q?*) and of other things, more of which I was purpoſed to aſent (*have ſent*) you word of. The holy Trinity have you in keeping. Written at Norwich, the Wedneſday next after Saint Mathias.

Yours,

[a] MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,
Wedneſday, February,
Between 1455 and 1460. 34 and 39 H. VI.

LETTER LXXII.

To my right worſhipful Conſin, John Paſton, Eſq.

RIGHT worſhipful and entirely beloved Couſin, I commend me to you heartily, letting you weet, that there is a controverſy moved betwixt my Couſin [1] John Radcliff, of Attleborough, and me for the Advowſon of the church of Attleborough, the which is now void, whereof the title is mine verily as God knoweth, the which ſhall be opened unto you, and upon Thurſday next, at Wymondham, there ſhall be taken an En-

[1] John Radcliff, Eſq. married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Walter Lord Fitz Walter; he was in her right called Lord Fitz Walter, and was killed at Ferrybridge, in 1460.

jure patronatus afore [2] Maſtr Robert Popy And Maſtr Symond Thornh'm atte whech day j may nought be my ſelff as god knowyth And thow j myght yt were not convenyent And therfore ryght truſty Coſyn conſideryng that j am a wedowe jmpotent as of body tendyrly and hertily j pray you yf yt lyke yow to be there aſſiſtyng my Councell in my Right as reſon and lawe wille upon thurſday next be viij of the clokke And [3] Fynch'm Spelman and othir of my Councell ſhall be than there waytyng upon yow And jentyll Coſyn have me excuſed thowh j wryte thus brefly and homly to yow for in trouth j do it of a ſynguler truſt and affection the wheche j have in yow conſideryng the goode nome and Fame of trouth wyſdom and good conducte the which j here of you And therfor and ye may to youre well j beſeche you hertyly to be there And ye ſhall nought leſe therby with the grace of almyghty jhu the wheche evyr preſerve and promote you. gentill Coſyn in moche worſhip to youre hertys eaſe Atte Bokenh'm Caſtell on teuyſday in Pache weke in haſt

[4] D. A. Ogard.

12 by 6 ¾.
Paper Mark,
Cap and Fleur de lys.
Pl. VIII. N° 4.

[2] Theſe were Civilians and Officers belonging to the Biſhop's Court.

[3] Simeon Fincham, of Fincham, Eſq. his Son John married Agnes, Daughter of John Spelman, of Beckerton, Eſq. I ſuppoſe the perſon here mentioned, he died in 1460, and Simeon in 1458.

quiry de jure Patronatûs, afore [2] Maſter Robert Popy and Maſter Simon Thornham, at which day I may nought be myſelf as God knoweth, and though I might, it were not convenient (*q? becoming*). And therefore, right truſty Couſin, conſidering that I am a Widow impotent as of body, tenderly and heartily I pray you, if it like You to be there aſſiſting my Counſel in my right, as reaſon and law will upon Thurſday next by eight of the clock, and [3] Fincham, Spelman, and other of my counſel ſhall be then there waiting upon you; and gentle Couſin have me excuſed, though I write thus briefly and homely to you, for in truth I do it of a ſingular truſt and affection the which I have for you, conſidering the good name and fame of truth, wiſdom, and good conduct, the which I hear of you. And therefore and *(if)* ye may to your weal, I beſeech you heartily to be there, and ye ſhall nought loſe thereby with the grace of Almighty Jeſu; the which ever preſerve and promote you, gentle Couſin, in much worſhip to your heart's eaſe. At Bokenham Caſtle, on Tueſday in Paſche Week, in haſte.

[4] DAME ALICE OGARD.

Bokenhem,
Eaſter Tueſday, 30 March,
1456, 34 H. VI.

[4] Dame Alice Ogard was the Widow of Sir Andrew Ogard, Knt. whoſe firſt wife was Margaret, the Daughter of Sir John Clifton, Knt. of Bokenhem Caſtle. He died in 1454, and Alice, his relict, in 1460.

Autograph. Pl. XIX. N° 20.

The Character here given of John Paſton is ſuch as places him in a very advantageous point of view.

LET-

LETTER LXXIJ.

To my Maiſtr Paſton.

PLEASE you to wete that aftr dew recōmendacon hyt ys ſo that my Maiſtr ſendyth me to london for the matr of Rocheſtr as for dyu's of hys oune prtic'ler maters which concern not the lawe, &c. And I am lyke to tarye ther till ye com jn caſe ye com wythynne iij wekys. Sr at Reurence of god ſeth my maiſtr ys fully yn wille to renew hys feſm't that it may be do be tyme by the ſureſt grounde that may be had for be it nevyr ſo ſuerly don hyt ſhall be thought lytille ynowgh to kepe hys lond owte of trouble And to ſpare for no councell ne coſt to make ſure for A peny yn ſeſon ſpent wille ſafe a pounde I comyned wt my broydr Spyrlyng which ſeyth he wille do hys attend'unce and to kepe it ryzt cloſe of the [1] namys taryeng drawyth parell And ye meved Agode mater to the prſon and to me at yor laſt beyng at Caſtr that my maiſtr ſhud be lerned whate hys houſold ſtandyth uppon yerlye ſeth he kept it holye to ghedr at one place And that don then to ſee by the Revenues of hys yeerly lyfelode whate may be leyd and Aſſigned owte for that cauſe to meynteyn hys ſeyd houſold And over that whate may be aſſigned to beere owte hys [2] plees And alſo do pay for hys foreyn chargs

The Feoffment, which Botoner appears ſo anxious about, moſt probably concerned thoſe lands which Sir John Faſtolf intended to devote to charitable uſes, as the founding of his College, &c.

From the management of his Accounts we ſee the manner in which the affairs of the Great

LETTER LXXIII.

To my Maſter Paſton.

PLEASE you to weet that, after due recommendation, it is ſo that my Maſter ſendeth me to London for the matter of Rocheſter as (*well as*) for divers of his own particular matters which concern not the law, &c. And I am like to tarry there till ye come, in caſe ye come within three weeks.

Sir, at reverence of God ſeth *(ſince)* my Maſter is fully in will to renew his feoffment, (*take care*) that it may be done by time by the ſureſt ground that may be had, for, be it never ſo ſurely done, it ſhall be thought little enough to keep his land out of trouble; and to ſpare for no counſel nor coſt to make it ſure, for a Penny in ſeaſon ſpent will ſave a Pound.

I communed with my brother Spyrling, which ſayeth he will do his attendance, and to keep it right cloſe of the [1] names, tarrying draweth peril.

And ye moved a good matter to the Parſon and to me at your laſt being at Caiſter, that my Maſter ſhould be learned (*informed*) what his houſehold ſtandeth upon yearly, ſince he kept it together wholly at one place; and that done, then to ſee by the Revenues of his yearly livelihood what may be laid and aſſigned out for that cauſe to maintain his ſaid houſehold, and over that, what may be aſſigned to bear out his [2] Pleas; and alſo to pay

Great Men of the time were conducted, and the method here propoſed ſeems the beſt that could be contrived for bringing back his Auditors to their accuſtomed exactneſs.

[1] Of the Truſtees named in the feoffment I ſuppoſe.

[2] His Law buſineſs.

[3] chargs and dedes of Almes to A conuenyent sõme And seth the grettist ordynarye charge most be hys housold kepyng hyt were moste exspedyent that ye wold note well to remẽbre specially my maist[r] to do hys Audytes cast up and make rollys of hys Accompts conc[r]nyng the seyd housold seth he came yn to Norff' thys ij yer and half Whych was nevyr so long to doo thys xl wynter as ye now. And it y[t] pytee that hys Audyt ys none ethyr wyse yn that entended ye must nedys yff ye wille my maist[r] know how hyt stand w[t] hym yerly of hys chargs that thys be do fyrst as it was allwey acustomed my maist[r] wille acord it to be don but it ys forgete throwgh negligence of men yoven to sensualite as Tho's Upton me and othyrs my maist[r] can not know whede[r] he go backward or forw'rd till thys be doon I can not ell but ye wille not foryete thys that the Audytes go verraily aboute it to An ende And Haylysdon Accõpts be behynde for ij yeer to grete pite ys and it wer yours or yn any wyseman gouu[r]n'ce at Norw' hastly the Wenstay in Est weke.

[4] Botoñyner.

11 ¾ by 5 ½.

[3] Charges not connected with his housholdAccounts.

LET.

for his foreign [3] Charges, and Deeds of Alms to a convenient ſum.

And ſince the greateſt ordinary charge muſt be his houſehold keeping, it were moſt expedient that ye would note well to remember ſpecially my Maſter to do (*cauſe*) his Auditors (*to*) caſt up and make Rolls of his Accounts concerning the ſaid houſehold ſince he came into Norfolk theſe two years and half, which was never ſo long to do theſe forty winters, as ye know; and it is pity that his Audit is none otherwiſe in that intended; ye muſt needs, if ye will my Maſter know how it ſtand with him yearly of his charges, that this be done firſt, as it was always accuſtomed; my Maſter will accord it to be dòne, but it is forgotten through negligence of men given to ſenſuality, as Thomas Upton, me, and others; my Maſter cannot know whether he go backward or forward till this be done.

I can not (*nought*) elſe, but ye will not forget this, that the Auditors go verily about it to amend; and Heyleſdon Accounts be behind hand for two years to great pity is, and it were (*I wiſh it were*) yours, or in any wiſe man's governance. At Norwich haſtily, the Wedneſday in Eaſter week.

[4] BOTOHRNER.

Norwich,
Wedneſday in Eaſter Week,
31 March, 1456. 34 H. VI.

[4] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 23.

LETTER LXXJU.

To the Ryght Worſhyfull Sr
Iohn Paſton Eſcuier beyng
in Norwych yn haſte.

RYGHT worſhypfull Sr aftyr dewe recōmendacon pleaſe yow to wete that I wrote A remēbr'unce to yow the day that j departed owte of Norwc by Rych'rd the prſon ys frv'nt of Blofeld concernyng crteyn maters to be remēbred by your wyſdom for my maiſtr ys avaylle whych your grete wyſdom can well undreſtand ys ryght nedefull as one thyng yn eſpeciall that Shypdā and Spyrlyng ought to labour fyrſt of onye thyng that belongyth to Audyt the Accompts of the reſſeyt and deſpens' of my maiſtr houſold at Caſtr ſeth he came laſt in to Norff' whych aſwell for the p'viſyons that ys had of hys oune grownyng as in money payd for till the ſeyd Accōpts be made ordynatlye whych be of A grete charge yeerlye Wete ye for certeyn my maiſtr. ſhall nev'e know Whethyr he goth bakward or forward. And manye oy'e Accomptants that maken lyv'e of p'vyſyons of cornys and catell to the houſehold by the reſſeyvor and by the bayllyfs can not Approve theyr liberatz juſt tille the ſeyd houſold bokes be made upp And ſeth it hath be kept ordynarylye ſeth my maiſtr

We have in this Letter a continuation of Botoner's advice concerning the management of Sir John Faſtolf's affairs at Caiſter, &c. and proper methods propoſed for remedying them.

He ſeems to think that Sir John Faſtolf was a conſiderable loſer by concerning himſelf with ſhips, and in merchandize, &c. and hints that his corn and wool might be turned to better account than exchanged for wares at Yarmouth.

begen

LETTER LXXIV.

To the right worſhipful Sir, John Paſton, Eſquire, being in Norwich, in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, after due recommendation, pleaſe you to weet that I wrote a remembrance to you the day that I departed out of Norwich, by Richard, the Parſon's ſervant of Blofield, concerning certain matters to be remembered by your wiſdom for my Maſter's avail, which your great wiſdom can well underſtand is right needful, as one thing in eſpecial, that Shipdham and Spyrling ought to labour, firſt of any thing that belongeth, to audit the accounts of the Receipts and Diſpenſes (*Diſburſements*) of my Maſter's houſehold in Caiſter, ſince he came laſt into Norfolk, which as well for the proviſions that is had of his own growing as in money paid; for till the ſaid Accounts be made ordinately (*methodically*,) which be of a great charge yearly, weet ye for certain my Maſter ſhall never know whether he goeth backward or forward; and many other Accomptants that maken livery (*make delivery*) of proviſions of Corns and Cattle to the houſehold by the Receiver and by the Bailiffs cannot approve their Liberates juſt, till the ſaid houſehold Books be made up; and ſince it hath been kept ordinarily

The ſecond part of this Letter which concerns political matters ſeems to refer to the year 1456, when the King was again under the management of the Queen and her party. The King and his Friends were now at Herford (Hereford I ſuppoſe it means) enquiring after, and puniſhing thoſe who had joined the Duke of York's army raiſed in Wales.

begen to kepe houſe thys l yeer almoſte And when he hath be abſent beyond ſee, &c. hyt ought to be more redelyer be doon and made upp whyle he is p'ſent and well the ray'e that hys houſold menye were not ſo hole to ghedr thys xl yer as be now at Caſtr. Alſo hyz minuſtrs of Accompts of hys chieff maner of haylyſdon for iij yeer to make upp and to examyn And I enſure yow full ſimplye Approwed hys Wollys and hys fermys And the iij^{d} ys that ſo wold Ihs my maiſt' Audyto's wold faythfully and playnlye enforme my maiſtr of the trouth of the yeerly grete damage he beryth in deburſyng hys money Aboute Shypp' and botes kepyng An houſe up at Jermuch to hys grete harme and reſſeyvyth but chaffr and waare for hys cornys and wollys, &c. and then moſt Abyde Along day to make money of ſuch chaffr takyng he ſhall neide be monyed ne be Aunſuerd clerly of hys Revenues yeerly but thoſe thyngs Abofeſeyd be Amended be tyme yn lowys days xij yeer to gheder my maiſt^{r} was wont to ley upp money yeerly at london and Caſtr and now the contr'ye de malo ī pejus I dar not be know of thys bille but ye may queſtion and vele of the diſpoſicon of thys maters of oy'es and thē undrſtand yff I wryt juſtlye or no and ye as of your mocon for my maiſt^{r} worſhyp and p'fyt exortyng hȳ the ſtuard Shypdā and Spyrlyng to take a labo^{r} and A peyn that thys be reformed I pr'y yow and r'qr yow kepe thys mat' to yor ſylf.

Yo^{r}.

Botoner.

As

ſince my Maſter began to keep houſe this fifty year almoſt, and when he hath been abſent beyond ſea, &c. it ought (*to*) be more readilier done and made up while he is preſent, and well the rather that his houſehold meny (*Family*) were not ſo whole together this forty year as be now at Caiſter. Alſo his miniſters of Accounts *(minutes or firſt draughts)* of his chief manor of Heyleſdon for three years to make up and to examine; and I aſſure you full ſimply approved his Wools and his Farms.

And the third is, that ſo would Jeſu my Maſter's Auditors would faithfully and plainly inform my Maſter of the truth of the yearly great damage he beareth in diſburſing his money about Shipping and Boats, keeping an houſe up at Yarmouth to his great harm, and receiveth but chaffer and ware for his corns and wools, &c. And then muſt abide a long day to make money, of ſuch chaffer taking he ſhall never be monied, nor be anſwered clearly of his revenues yearly, but (*unleſs*) thoſe things above ſaid be amended betimes. In Lewis's days twelve years together my Maſter was wont to lay up money yearly at London and Caiſter, and now the contrary, de malo in pejus.

I dare not be known of this bill, but ye may queſtion and vele *(feel)* of the diſpoſition of theſe matters of others, and then underſtand if I write juſtly or no; and ye, as of your motion, for my Maſter's worſhip and profit, exhorting him, the Steward, Shipdham, and Spyrling to take a labour and a pain that this be reformed.

I pray you and require you (*to*) keep this matter to yourſelf.

Your,

BOTONER.

As

As for nouveltes none comth but y^{t} ys ſeyd the Sege ſhall com to Calix the Erle of [1] W'rwyk ys yhyt at Caunt^{r}bury w^{t} the [2] Archbyſhip and the Erle yong^{r} [3] broy'e maryed to Sr Ead' Yngylthorp dought^{r} uppon ſe$\bar{y}$t M'rks day. the Erle of [4] Worceſtr broght Aboute the maryage. the Queen and the kyng at [5] Herford the lordes [6] Bokyngh'm [7] Shrewſbury and oy'es ther And now it ys ſeyd [8] Herbert ſhall com ynne And Apper at Leyc^{r} before the k$\bar{y}$g and the lordes hys lyfe gr'unted and godes ſo he make Amendys to theym he hath offended. Manye be endyted ſom cauſeleſe wh^{c} makyth Herbert partye ſtreng And the burgeys and gentlemen Aboute Herford wille goo wyth the kyng Wyffe and chylde but A peaſe be made or the kyng part thens for ell Herbert and hys Affinite wille acquyt th$\bar{e}$ as it ys ſeyd the Erle of Warwyk hath had the folks of Caunt^{r}bury And Sandwy^{c} before hym and thanked hem of her gode herts and vytaillyng of Calix and p'yeth hem of Cont$\bar{y}$unce. I ſende A bille of the namys endyted to my maiſt^{r} and yow to ſee and laugh at theyr Wellſh names deſcended of old pedegris Our lord be w^{t} yow wryt haſtly at lond$\bar{o}$ the fyrſt day of May.

[9] Botoner.

11 ½ by 4.

[1] Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick.

[2] Thomas Bourchier, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, and Lord Chancellor.

[3] John Neville, afterwards Marquis Montague, married Iſabel, daughter and heir of Sir Edmund Ingoldeſthorpe, of Burgh Green, in Cambridgeſhire, by his wife Jane, Siſter, and at length co-heir of John Lord Tiptoft, firſt Earl of Worceſter. He was ſlain in the battle of Barnet, in 1471.

[4] John Tiptoft was created Earl of Worceſter in 1449, and in Edward IVth's reign elected a Knight of the Garter: during that King's depoſition in 1470, the Earl of Warwick obtained in Parliament that Worceſter ſhould be beheaded.

[5] This muſt mean Hereford.

[6] Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, killed at the battle of Northampton, in 1460.

As for novelties none cometh, but it is ſaid the ſiege ſhall come to Calais; the Earl of [1] Warwick is yet at Canterbury with the [2] Archbiſhop, and the Earl's younger [3] Brother is married to Sir Edmund Inglethorpe's daughter upon Saint Mark's day, the Earl of [4] Worceſter brought about the marriage; the Queen and the King at [5] Herford, the Lords [6] Buckingham, [7] Shrewſbury and others there; and now it is ſaid [8] Herbert ſhall come in, and appear at Leiceſter before the King and the Lords, his life granted and goods, ſo he make amends to them he hath offended; many be indicted, ſome cauſeleſsly, which maketh Herbert's party ſtronger, and the Burgeſſes and Gentlemen about Herford will go with the King wife and child; but (*unleſs*) a peace be made ere the King part thence, for elſe Herbert and his affinity will acquit them, as it is ſaid.

The Earl of Warwick hath had the folks of Canterbury and Sandwich before him, and thanked them of their good hearts, and victualling of Calais, and prayeth them of continuance.

I ſend a bill of the names indicted, to my Maſter and you, to ſee and laugh at their Welſh names deſcended of old pedigrees. Our Lord be with you; written haſtily at London, the firſt day of May.

[9] BOTONER.

London, Saturday, 1ſt of May,
1456. 34 H. VI.

[7] John Talbot, Earl of Shrewſbury, he was Lord Treaſurer, and fell at the battle of Northampton. Æt. 49.

[8] Sir William Herbert, knight, had greatly aſſiſted the Duke of York in raiſing forces, and ever continuing a ſteady Yorkiſt, often contended againſt the Lancaſtrians; he was afterwards deſervedly in favour with Edward IV. and by him was created Earl of Pembroke; he was taken priſoner at the battle of Banbury, in 1469, and beheaded by the Rebels.

[9] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 24, the firſt part of it.

On the back of the Letter is written in an ancient hand. "A l're of W. Botoner als Wyrceſtr ſhewing y^t his M^r. had kept howſe l yere."

LETTER LXXV.

To Iohn Paſton
dwellyn in the inder
in of the Tempyll att
london be thys lettr
delyuerd in haſt.

SON I grete yow and Send yow godds Blyſſyng and myn and as for my doughtyr yor Wyfe Che faryt well Blyſſyd be god as a woman in hyr plyte may do and all yor Sonys and doughtrys and for as meche as ye wyll Send me no tydyngs I ſend yow ſeche as ben in thys Contre Rychard Lynſted Cam thys day fro [1] Paſton and letyt me Wete that on ſaturday laſt paſt Dravale halfe brother to Waryn Harman was takyn wt Enemyis Walkyn be the Se Syde and haue hym forthe wt hem and they tokyn ij [2] pylgremys a man and a woman and they Robbyd the woman and lete hyr gon and ledde the man to the ſee and whan they knew he was a pylgreme they geffe hym monej and ſett hym ageyn on the lond and they haue thys weke takyn iiij veſſelys of Wyntyrton and Happyſborough and Ecles men ben ſore aferd for takyn of me for ther ben X grete veſſelys of the Enemyis god yeue g'ce that the See may be better kepte than it is now or ellys it chall ben a perlyous dwellyng be

At a time when the kingdom was in a ſtate of conſtant alarm from the civil contentions between the White and Red Roſes, it is not to be wondered at that the Coaſts were neglected, and that the enemies of England took advantage of this neglect by pillaging the inhabitants near the ſhores. Theſe coaſts were likewiſe expoſed to the enemy in 1449, ſee Vol. i. Letter VIII. p. 31.

the

LETTER LXXV.

To John Paſton, dwelling in the Inner Inn of the Temple, at London, be this Letter delivered in haſte.

SON, I greet you, and ſend you God's bleſſing and mine; as for my daughter your wife ſhe fareth well, bleſſed be God! as a woman in her plight may do, and all your Sons and Daughters.

And for as much as ye will ſend me no tidings, I ſend you ſuch as be in this Country; Richard Lynſted came this day from [1] Paſton and let me weet, that on Saturday laſt paſt, Dravell, half-brother to Warren Harman, was taken with enemies, walking by the Sea ſide, and *(they)* have him forth with them, and they took two [2] Pilgrims, a man and a woman, and they robbed the woman and let her go, and led the man to the Sea; and when they knew he was a Pilgrim they gave him money, and ſet him again on the land; and they have this week taken four Veſſels off Winterton, and Happiſborough and Eccles.

Men be ſore afraid for taking of me, for there be ten great Veſſels of the Enemy's; God give grace that the ſea may be better kept than it is now, or elſe it ſhall be a perilous dwelling by the ſea coaſt.

[1] Paſton is ſituated exactly on the north-eaſt point of the Norfolk coaſt.

[2] We have here an inſtance of the reſpect paid, even by the enemies of this kingdom, to pilgrims; for we find as ſoon as the man carried aboard the ſhips, was known by the commander to be on pilgrimage he was diſmiſſed, and ſet on ſhore with money in his pocket, which probably might be given to him, as a recompence for what the ſailors had taken from the woman on ſhore, or to defray the expences of his pilgrimage.

the Se Coſt I p'y yow grete well yor. Brethyrne and ſey hem that I ſend hem godd's blyſſyn and myn and ſey Willi$\bar{a}$ that if jenett Lauton be not payd for the Krymſon Cort wheche Alſon [3] Crane wrote to hyr for in hyr owyn name that than he pay hyr and ſee Alſon Cranys name ſtrekyn owt of hyr boke for Che ſejthe Che wyll aſke no man the money butt Alſon Crane And I p'y yow that ye wyll Remembr the lett^{r} that I ſent yow laſt and god be w^{t} yow Wretyn att Norwyche the Wedneſday next before Sent Gregory.

[4] Angnes Paſton.

11 ¾ by 7 ¾.

Seal octangular, the impreſſion imperfect; but it appears to be the head of a king or royal perſonage. Pl. xxiii. N° 1.

Paper Mark,
An Anchor.
Pl. xxii. N° 12.

[3] This was probably a daughter of Robert Crane, of Stonham, in Suffolk.

The anecdotes in this Letter are curious, and worth preſerving, as they ſtrongly mark the defenceleſs ſtate of the kingdom, and point out the inattention of the government

LET=

I pray you greet well your brethren, and ſay *(tell)* them that I ſend them God's bleſſing and mine, and ſay William that if Janet Lauton be not paid for the Crimſon Coat which Alſon [3] Crane wrote to her for in her own name, that then he pay her, and ſee Alſon Crane's name ſtricken out of her book, for ſhe ſaith ſhe will aſk no man the money but Alſon Crane. And I pray you that ye will remember the Letter that I ſent you laſt, and God be with you.

Written at Norwich, the Wedneſday next before Saint Gregory (*12th March.*)

By your Mother,

[4] AGNES PASTON.

Norwich,
Wedneſday, 8th of March,
1457-8. 36 H. VI.

ment to naval affairs. I think I have fixed the date of this Letter properly, but I may be wrong.

[4] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 19.

LETTER LXXIJ.

To my Ryght reverent and
Worchepful Maſter John Paſton
be this delyverid.

PLESE it yor Maſterchep to wete that I haue ſpoke wy^{t} the Shereff at heſe placez mevyng to hym as for that that was left wy^{t} heſe under Shereff it is yor wyl he ſhuld ſend a man of heſe for it for thow it were more ye wold gladly he ſhuld take it he thanked yow and ſayde heſe under ſhereff was at london And hymſelff had non deſerved and if he had he wold a take it And whan I departyd from hym I deſyerid hym a yen to ſend therffore and than he ſeyde it ſhuld abyde tyl ye come hom wherby I Conceyve he wold haue it and be gladde to take it Moreover I remembred hym of heſe p'myſes made before to yow at London when he took heſe oth and charche and that ye were wy^{t} hym when he toke heſe oth and oder dyuers tymes And for tho p^{r}myſes made be hym to yow at that tyme and other tymes at the oyer determyner at lynne ye p'poſed yow be the truſt that

I have given this long Letter to ſhew the means uſed to tamper with Sheriffs and Underſheriffs that Juries might be returned favourable to the cauſe of thoſe who had influenced the Returning Officer; this converſation is a very curious one, and exhibits care, caution, and fineſſe on both ſides.

We are happy in living in times, when neither the Crown improperly interferes in matters of trial by jury, nor are any of our Sheriffs in this age, ever accuſed of packing a Jury to oblige particular parties. The ſtream of Juſtice runs pure and clear, may it ever continue ſo!

This Letter was moſt probably written between the years 1457 and 1460, (ſee Letters XLVIII. and XLIX. Vol. i. p. 190, 192.) as Lord Molyns was a Lancaſtrian, and beheaded

LETTER LXXVI.

To my right reverend and worſhipful Maſter, John Paſton, be this delivered.

PLEASE it your maſterſhip to weet, that I have ſpoken with the Sheriff at his place, moving to him, as for that, that was left with his Underſheriff, it is your will he ſhould ſend a man of his for it; for though it were more ye would gladly he ſhould take it; he thanked you, and ſaid his Underſheriff was at London, and himſelf had none deſerved, and if he had he would have taken it. And when I departed from him I deſired him again to ſend therefore, and then he ſaid it ſhould abide till ye came home, whereby I conceive he would have it, and be glad to take it. Moreover I remembered him of his promiſes made before to you at London, when he took his oath and charge, and that ye were with him when he took his oath, and other divers times; and for the promiſes made by him to you at that time, and other times at the Oyer Determiner at Lynn, ye propoſed you by the truſt that ye have in him for to attempt

beheaded early in the reign of Edward IV. when, from the Letters here referred to, it appears there were matters of property in diſpute between this nobleman and J. Paſton.

The Sheriffs for the Counties of Norfolk and Suffolk for the following years, were for 1577 Richard Bothe, for 1458 Giles de Saintloe, 1459 William de Calthorpe, and 1460 Philip Wentworth; it was with one of theſe therefore that this converſation paſſed.

The manner in which our nobles travelled in this age, is here pointed out.

Autograph. Pl. XIX. N° 21.

and

that ye haue in hym for to atempte and Rere Accions that ſhuld be to the Avayle of hym And of heſe office he wold a know what the accions ſhuld be J ſayde I coude not telle hym And than he Seyde he wold do for yow that he may excepte for the aquitell of the Lord Molyns men in ſo meche as the Kyng hath wrete to hym for to ſhewe favor to the lord Molyns and heſe men And as he Seyth the indytement longyth to the Kyng and not to yow And the lord Molyns a gret Lord alſo as he Seyth now late the lord Mol' hath ſent hym a letter and my lord of Norff' anoder for to ſhew favor in theſe indytements he darnot abyde the joporte of that that he ſhuld offende the Kynges comaundment he know not how the Kyng may be informed of hym and what ſhal be ſeyde to hym And than I ſayde as for any joporte that he ſhuld abyde in any thyng that he doth for yow or be yor. deſyre ye haue offered hym And wol p'formet ſufficient ſewerte for to ſawe hym harmeles and therfore I ſuppoſid ther wold non reſonable man thynk but that he myght do for yow wyt owte any joporte And then he ſeyde he myth non ſewerte take that paſſid C li. And the lord Mol' is a gret lord he myght ſoon cauſe hym to leſe that and meche mo Than I ſayde be that meane in defawte of a Shereff every man may be put from heſe lyvelod And thann he ſeyde iff it were for the lyvelode men wold take hem the nerer for to abyde a Joporte but be heſe feyth as he ſwore if the Kyng wryte ayan to hym he wol no lenger abyde the joporte of the Kyngges Wrytyng but he truſtyth to godde to inpanell ſeche men as Shuln to hiſe knowleche be indeferent and non Comon Juro's As me ſemyth it wold do goode And ye

wolde

and rear actions that ſhould be to the avail of him and of his office: he would have known what the actions ſhould be; I ſaid I could not tell him, and then he ſaid he would do for you that he may, except for the acquittal of the Lord Molyns's men, inſomuch as the King hath written to him for to ſhew favour to the Lord Molyns and his men, and as he ſaith the indictment longeth (*belongeth*) to the King and not to you, and the Lord Molyns (*is*) a great Lord. Alſo, as he ſaith, now late the Lord Molyns hath ſent him a Letter, and my Lord of Norfolk another for to ſhew favour in theſe indictments, he dare not abide the jeopardy of that, that he ſhould offend the King's commandment, he know not how the King may be informed of him, and what ſhall be ſaid to him.

And then I ſaid as for any jeopardy that he ſhould abide in any thing that he doth for you, or by your deſire, ye have offered him, and will perform it, ſufficient ſurety for to ſave him harmleſs, and therefore I ſuppoſed there would none reaſonable man think but that he might do for you without any jeopardy; and then he ſaid he might none ſurety take that paſſed an hundred pounds; and the Lord Molyns is a great Lord, he might ſoon cauſe him to loſe that and much more; then I ſaid, by that mean in default of a Sheriff every man may be put from his livelihood; and then he ſaid, if it were for the livelihood men would take them the nearer for to abide a jeopardy, but by his faith, as he ſwore, if the King wrote again to him he will no longer abide the jeopardy of the King's writing, but he truſteth to God to impannel ſuch men as ſhould to his knowledge be indifferent, and none common Jurors.

wolde gett a comaundment of the Kyng to the Shereff for to Shew yow Favor and to inpanell Iantelmen and not for to favor non ſeche riotts &c. For he ſeyde that he Sent yow the letter yt the Kyng ſent hym and ye ſeyde A man ſhuld gete ſeche on for a noble It'm I remembred hym of the p'myſes that he hath made to Temprley And that if he wold make yow very trew p'mys ye wold rewarde hym as meche as he wold deſire or any other reſonable man for hym and aſmoche and mor then any Aduerſerry ye have wold gef hym than he ſeyde he toke neur no mony of non of hem alle there was p'ferid hym at Walſyngh'm for the lord Molyns XX nobles he had not a peny moreour I p'ferid hym if he wold make yow p'mys that ye myght veryly truſt upon hym ye wold geff hym in hande as he wold deſire or to leve a ſūme if he wold a named it in a mene mannys hand and ſeche as he hath truſt to And then he ſeyde if he myght do for yow or if he do any thyng for yow then he wol take yowre mony wyt a good wyl And other p'mys I coude not have of hym but that he wol do for yow all that he may excepte for the inditements I conceyve veryly he hath made p'mys to do heſe part that they ſhul be a quytte but I ſuppoſe he hath made non other p'mys ayens yow for the lyvelode but he lokyth aftyr a gret brybe but it is not for to truſt hym veryly wyt owte that he may not cheſe I ſuppoſe he had no wrytyng fro my lord of Norff as he ſeyde I was at Framyngh'm for to a ſpoke wyt Tympley Debnam or Berry and they were all ought my lord as

he

As me ſeemeth it would do good and ye would get a commandment of the King to the Sheriff for to ſhew you favour, and to impannel Gentlemen, and not for to favour none ſuch riots, &c. for he ſaid that he ſent you the Letter that the King ſent him, and ye ſaid, a man ſhould get ſuch (*an*) one for a noble (*6s. 8d.*)

Item, I remembered him of the promiſes that he made to Timperley, and that if he would make you very true promiſe ye would reward him as much as he would deſire, or any other reaſonable man for him, and as much or more than any adverſary ye have would give him; then he ſaid he took never no money of none of them all; there was proffered him at Walſingham for the Lord Molyns twenty Nobles *(6l. 13s. 4d.)* he had not a penny; moreover I proffered him, if he would make you promiſe that ye might verily truſt upon him, ye would give him in hand as he would deſire, or to leave a ſum if he would have named it in a mean *(middle)* man's hand, and ſuch as he hath truſt to; and then he ſaid, if he might do for you, or (*q. for*) if he do any thing for you then he will take your money with a good will; and other promiſe I could not have of him, but that he would do for you all that he may, except for the indictments; I conceive verily he hath made promiſe to do his part that they ſhall be acquitted, but I ſuppoſe he hath made none other promiſe againſt you for the livelihood, but he looketh after a great bribe, but it is not for to truſt him verily without that he may not chooſe.

I ſuppoſe he had no writing from my Lord of Norfolk as he ſaid.

I was at Framlingham for to have ſpoken with Tymperley, Debenham, or Berry, and they were all out; my Lord as he

he came from london he was at yepyſweche on moneday And when he wyᵗowth the Town toward Framyngh'm he had all heſe men ryde forth afore a gret paſe for he wold felwe ſoftely And when heſe men were owte of ſyght he rode wyᵗ v men to a ſquieris place of heſe there by And on tewſday rodde my lady to hym And ſo I dede nought at Framyngh'm No more at thys tyme but all myghty Jhu ſpede yow and have yow in heſe kepyng Wrete at Norwiche the Thurſday next aftyr Sent Auſtyn, &c.

Be yoʳ ſʳvūt,

John Oſbern.

11 ½ by 13.

Paper Mark,
A Bull.
Pl. xxii. N° 16.

LETTER LXXIJ.

RYT w'chipful hwſbond I recomawnd me to zᵘ and prey zw to gete ſom croſſe bowis and [1] wȳdacs to bynd ye' wᵗ and [2] quarrell for zʳ hwſis her ben ſo low yat yer may non man ſchet owt wᵗ no long bowe yow we hadde nev' ſo moche nede I

The Direction of this curious Letter is obliterated, but it is plainly from Margaret Paſton to her Huſband; and the paper is likewiſe ſo completely filled with writing that ſhe has not even either ſubſcribed or dated it, but by the mentioning of Sir John Faſtolf, it muſt have been written before 1459.

We have here a particular account of the offenſive weapons uſed in the Caſtles, and even in the common houſes of the inferior people, who ſeemed to have lived in a continued ſtate of warfare with their neighbours, and to be prepared to oppoſe force by force.

ſopoſe

came from London he was at Ipſwich on Monday, and when he *(came)* without the town towards Framlingham, he had all his men ride forth afore a great pace, for he would follow ſoftly, and when his men were out of ſight, he rode with five men to an Eſquier's place of his thereby, and on Tueſday rode my Lady to him; and ſo I did nought at Framlingham. No more at this time, but Almighty Jeſu ſpeed you, and have you in his keeping. Written at Norwich, the Thurſday next after Saint Auſtin, &c. (*28th Auguſt.*)

By your Servant,

JOHN OSBERN.

Norwich, Auguſt.
Between 1457 and 1460,
35 and 39 H. VI.

LETTER LXXVII.

To my right worſhipful Huſband, John Paſton.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I recommend me to you, and pray you to get ſome Croſs Bows and [1] Wyndacs, (*Windlaſſes*) to bind them with and [2] Quarrels, for your houſes here be ſo low that there may none man ſhoot out with no long bow, though we had never ſo much need.

We can from this account likewiſe form a judgment for what purpoſes the embraſures now remaining in ancient buildings were intended; and from their heights and dimenſions determine whether they were to ſhoot through with arrows, or to fire through with guns.

[1] Windacs, are what we now call grappling irons, with which the bow-ſtring is drawn home.

[2] An Arrow with a ſquare head.

The Seal has the impreſſion of a Fleur-de-Lys. Pl. XXIII. N° 7.

ſopoſe ze xuld have ſeche thy'gs of ſer Ion Faſtolf if ze wold ſend to hym And alſo I wold ze xuld gete ij or iij ſchort pelle-axis to kepe w^{t} doris a'd als' many Iakkys and ye may P'tryche and his felaſchep arn ſor aferyd yat ze wold entren azen up on 'hem and yey have made grete ordynawce w^{t} jnne ye hwſe as it is told me yey have made barris to barre the dorys croſſe weyſe and yey hav' made wykets on ev'y quart' of ye hwſe to ſchote owte atte bothe w^{t} bowys and w^{t} hand gu'nys and ye holys yat ben made forr hand gu'nys. yey ben ſcarſe kne hey fro ye plawncher and o f ſocheholis b'en made fyve. yere can non man ſchete owt at yen w^{t} no hand bowys Purry felle i' felaſchepe w^{t}. Willyum Haſard at querles and told hym yat he wold com and drynk w^{t}. P'tryche and w^{t} hym and he ſeyd he xuld ben welcom and aft' none he went yedd' for to aſpye qhat yey dedyn and qhat felaſchep yey hadde w^{t}. yem and qhan he com yedd' ye dors were faſt ſperid and yere wer non folks w^{t}. hem but Mary-oth and Capron and hys wyf and querles wyf ad anoy' man ī ablac zede ſu' qhate halty'g I ſopo' be his w'ds yat it was Nor-folk of Gemy'gham and ye ſeyd purry aſpyde alle yis forſeyd thy'gs And Marioth and his felaſchep had meche grette langage yat xall ben told zw qhen ze kom hom I p'y zw yat ze wyl vowche ſave to don bye for me j li. of almands and j li. of ſugyr and yat ze wille do byen ſume freſe to maken of z^{r} child is gwnys ze xall have beſt chepe and beſt choyſe of Hayis wyf as it is told me And yat ze wyld bye a zerd of brode clothe of blac

for

I ſuppoſe ye ſhould have ſuch things of Sir John Faſtolf, if ye would ſend to him; and alſo I would ye ſhould get two or three ſhort Pole-axes to keep with doors, and as many Jackets, and (*if*) ye may.

Partrich and his fellowſhip are ſore afraid that ye would enter again upon them, and they have made great ordinance within the houſe, and it is told me they have made bars to bar the doors croſs wiſe, and they have made wickets on every quarter of the houſe to ſhoot out at, both with bows and with hand guns; and the holes that be made for hand-guns they be ſcarce knee high from the plancher (*floor*) and of ſuch holes be made five, there can none man ſhoot out at them with no hand-bows.

Purry fell in fellowſhip with William Haſard at Quarles's, and told him that he would come and drink with Partrich and with him, and he ſaid he ſhould be welcome, and after noon he went thither for to eſpy what they dedyn (*had done*,) and what fellowſhip they had with them; and when he came thither the doors were faſt ſpeared (*ſhut*) and there were none folks with them but Maryoth, and Capron and his wife, and Quarles's wife, and another man in a black yed (*went*) ſomewhat halting, I ſuppoſe by his words that it was Norfolk of Gimmingham; and the ſaid Purry eſpied all theſe foreſaid things.

And Maryoth and his fellowſhip had much great language that ſhall be told you when ye come home.

I pray you that ye will vouchſafe to do buy for me one lb. of Almonds and one lb. of ſugar, and that ye will do buy ſome frieze to make of your children's gowns, ye ſhall have beſt cheap, and beſt choice of Hays's wife, as it is told me. And that ye will buy a yard of broad cloth of black for one hood for

me

for an hode fore me of xliiij^{d} or iiij^{s} a zerd for y' is n'ther gode cloth ner god fryſe in this twn as for ye child is gwnys and I have yem I wel do hē maken.

The trynyte have zw jn his kepi'g and ſend zw gode ſpede i alle z^{r} mat'is.

8 ¾ by 5 ½.

LETTER LXXUIJJ.

To my Maiſt^{r}. Paſton,
H. R.

AFTYR dewe recomendacōn wyth my ſimple S^{r}vice p^{r}ce-dyng pleaſe your maiſt^{r}ſhyp to wete that as to ſuch remēbrūnce that ye deſyre me to contynew forth to the uttermoſt I ſhall wyth gode Wille ſo as my maiſter wille licence me as oft as I can th' offic^{r}. to hafe leyſ^{re} to be wyth me for ye know well I can not do it alone, &c. And where as ye of your pleaſ^{re}. wryte me or calle me maiſt^{r} Worceſtr j pray and requyre yow foryete that name of maiſt^{r}ſhyp for I am not amended by my maiſt^{r}. of a ferthyng yn certeynte but of wags of houſold in comune (entaunt come nows plaira) by Worceſtr or Botoner I hafe v^{s}. yerly all coſts born to help pay for bonetts that I loſe I told ſo my maiſt^{r}. thys weke And he ſeyd me yerſtenday he wyſhed me to hafe be a preeſt ſo I had be diſpoſed to hafe goſe me

me of 44*d* or four Shillings a yard, for there is neither good cloth nor good frieze in this town. As for the children's gowns and (*if*) I have them, I will do them maken (*have them made.*)

The Trinity have you in his keeping, and ſend you good ſpeed in all your matters.

MARGARET PASTON.

No date,
But before 1459.
37 H. VI.

LETTER LXXVIII.

To my Maſter Paſton,
H. R.

AFTER due recommendation with my ſimple ſervice preceding, pleaſe your maſterſhip to weet, that as to ſuch remembrance that ye deſire me to continue forth to the uttermoſt, I ſhall with good will, ſo as my Maſter will licence me as oft as I can the officer to have leiſure to be with me, for ye know well I cannot do it alone, &c.

And whereas ye of your pleaſure write me, or call me Maſter Worceſter, I pray and require you forget that name of maſterſhip, for I am not amended by my Maſter of a farthing in certainty, but of wages of houſehold in common entant comme nous plaira; by Worceſter or Botoner, I have five Shillings yearly, all coſts borne, to help to pay for Bonnets that I loſe; I told ſo my Maſter this week, and he ſaid (*to*) me yeſterday, he wiſhed me to have been a Prieſt ſo I had been diſpoſed, to have given

me a lyvyng by reſon of a benefice that anothyr moſt gefe it as the byſhop (but he wold) And ſo I endure intr. egenos ut ſervus ad aratrum. forgefe me I wryte to make yow laugh And our lord bryng my maiſtr. yn a bettr. mode for othyrs as for me at Caiſtr ijd day of Septēber.

I pray yow diſpleſer not yor. Srūnt be ſo long for my maiſtr. lettet hym.

Yor,

W. Wyrceſtyr.

11 ½ by 3 ¾.

Paper Mark,
A Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. xxii. N° 15.

This Letter appears to be written between jeſt and earneſt, he laments the ſmallneſs of his ſtanding wages, and ſeems to hint that his Maſter Sir John Faſtolf would be willing to provide for him if he could do it at the expence of another.

LETTER LXXIX.

To my maiſt' John Paſton
Squier be yis delyv'ed.

RYGHT worſhypfull S' I recōmaund me to yow. And my maiſter hertly thankyth yow for the venyſon that ye ſent hym from my lord of Oxford And pr'yth yow that he may be recōmaunded to hys noble lordſhyp And god thank yow for your ſpeciall remēbr'unce of my mater that ye hafe it ſo tendyrly to hert for ye may know weel the gode ſpede of that ys my well-

fare

me a living by reaſon (*means*) of a Benefice, that another man muſt give it, as the Biſhop, but (*if*) he would; and ſo I indure inter egenos ut ſervus ad aratrum.

Forgive me, I write to make you laugh; and our Lord bring my Maſter into a better mood for others as (*well as*) for me. At Caiſter, the 2d day of September.

I pray you diſpleaſure not your Servant be ſo long, for my Maſter letted him.

Your,

W. WORCESTER.

Caiſter,
2d of September,
Before 1459. 38 H. VI.

The date is uncertain and immaterial, though it muſt be before 1459. 38 H. VI. Autograph. Pl. xx. N° 31.

LETTER LXXIX.

To my Maſter John Paſton, Eſquire, be this delivered.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me to you, and my Maſter heartily thanketh you for the Veniſon that ye ſent him from my Lord of Oxford, and prayeth you that he may be recommended to his noble Lordſhip. And God thank you for your ſpecial remembrance of my matter that ye have it ſo tenderly to heart, for ye may know well the good ſpeed of that is my welfare, and the contrary is my utter undoing.

fare and the cont'rye ys my utter undoyngs. I hafe ſent to Iohn Porter to wete verrayly how it ſtandyth w^t. hym as ye ſhall wete the certeynte thys weke. As for the mater wryt to Bokkyng he hath rad ys l're and wille remēbr your deſyre and alſo of Williā Geney Comyng yn caſe he know of it rathyr then ye. and my maiſtr herd the ſubſt'unce of your l're red and lyked it ritz well and as for the mater of Worceſtr remēbr'unce he ſhall geve hys attend'unce therto yn that he can. And where ye calle hym maiſt' he ys diſpleſed wyth that name for he may ſpend v s. yerly more by the name of Worceſtr or Botoner And by hys maiſter not a ferthyng yn certeynte he prayth yow foryete it. I pray god kepe yow Wryt at Caſtr haſtly ij^d day of Septēbr.

Your oune,

T. Howes.

It'm yn caſe Jankyn be hole my lord of Norff' hath gra'nted by moyen of Rob't Wyngfeld to be yn my ſeyd lord ys houſold as my maiſt' hath it by l're from Wyngfeld.

11 ½ by 3 ½.

We ſee that in the age here mentioned, veniſon was a preſent worthy acceptance from a nobleman to a great commoner, and a knight of the garter.—It might have been ſuppoſed that from the large poſſeſſions of Sir John Faſtolf in Norfolk and Suffolk, that a park had been a part of them, but from the circumſtance here mentioned it certainly was not.

John de Vere, the Earl of Oxford, from whom this preſent of veniſon came, married Elizabeth, the daughter and heir of Sir John Howard, knight, of Wigenhall, St. German's, in Norfolk, by her he became poſſeſſed of a conſiderable property in that County.

I have ſent to John Porter to weet verily how it ſtandeth with him, as ye ſhall weet the certainty this week; as for the matter written to John Bokking he hath rad *(read)* his Letter, and will remember your deſire, and alſo of William Geney's coming, in caſe he know of it rather than ye.

And my Maſter heard the ſubſtance of your Letter read, and liked it right well; and as for the matter of Worceſter's remembrance, he ſhall give his attendance thereto in that he can.

And where ye call him Maſter, he is diſpleaſed with that name, for he may ſpend 5*s.* yearly more by the name of Worceſter or Botoner, and by his Maſter not a farthing in certainty, he prayeth you (*to*) forget it.

I pray God keep you. Written at Caiſter, haſtily, the 2d day of September.

Your own,

T. HOWES.

Item, in caſe Jankyn be whole, my Lord of Norfolk hath granted (*him*) by mean of Robert Wingfield, to be in my ſaid Lord's houſehold, as my Maſter hath it by Letter from Wingfield.

Caiſter,
2d of September,
Before 1459. 38 H. VI.

"Maſter" appears from this Letter to be a title of diſtinction which William Worceſter wiſhes to diſpenſe with, as it does not contribute to affording him larger wages from his Maſter Sir J. Faſtolf.—That ſeems to be the meaning of what occurs in this Letter.

Autograph. Pl. xix. N° 16.

LETTER LXX.

To my Right Worchippfull hoſbond John Paſton be thys delyv'yd in haſt.

RIGHT worchipfull hoſbond I recom'and me to yow deſyrīg to here of your welfar p'yīg yow to wete that Sr Thomas Howes hath purveyd iiij dormants for the [1] drawte cham' and the malthouſe and ye browere Wherof he hath bought iij and the forte yt ſhall be the lengeſt and gretteſt of all he ſhall have from Heyleſdon whiche he ſeyth my mayſtr Faſtolf ſhall geve me be cauſe my cham' ſhall be made yr wt as for ye layīg of the ſeyd dormants they ſhall be leyd this next weke be cauſe of the malthous and as for the remenant I trow it ſhall abyde tyll ye come hom be cauſe I can nother be p'veyd of pyſts ne of bords not yette I have take the meſure in the draute cham' yr as ye wold yor cofors and yor [2] cowntewery ſhuld be ſette for the whyle and yr is no ſpace beſyde the bedd thow the bedd wer remevyd to the dore for to ſette bothe yor bord and yor kofors ther and to have ſpace to go and ſitte be ſyde Wherfor I have p'veyd that ye ſhall have the ſame drawte cham' that ye had befor ther as ye ſhall ly to yor ſelf and whan yor gerr is remevod owte of yor lytil hous the dore ſhall be lokkyd and your baggs leyd in on of the grete koforis ſo yt they ſhall be ſauff I troſt Ric' Charles and John Dow have fetched hom ye [3] chyld from

In this Letter we have an account of Reparations and Alterations making in their houſe, with a Deſcription of their Bed-chamber, and its furniture.

[1] What the word Drawte means, when applied to a Chamber, I am not certain.

Roke-

LETTER LXXX.

To my right worſhipful huſband, John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I recommend me to you, deſiring to hear of your welfare; Praying you to weet that Sir Thomas Howes hath purveyed four Dormants (*Beams*) for the [1] Drawte Chamber, and the Malthouſe, and the Brewery, whereof he hath bought three, and the fourth, that ſhall be the longeſt and greateſt of all, he ſhall have from Heyleſdon, which he ſaith my maſter Faſtolf ſhall give me, becauſe my chamber ſhall be made therewith. As for the laying of the ſaid Dormants, they ſhall be laid this next week becauſe of the Malthouſe, and as for the remanant I trow it ſhall abid 'till ye come home, becauſe I can neither be purveyed of poſts, nor of boards not yet.

I have taken the meaſure in the drawte chamber, there as ye would your coffers and your [2] Cowntewery ſhould be ſet for the while, and there is no ſpace beſide the bed, though the bed were removed to the door, for to ſet both your Board and your Coffers there, and to have ſpace to go and ſit beſide; wherefore I have purveyed that ye ſhall have the ſame drawte chamber that ye had before there, as ye ſhall lye to yourſelf; and when your gear is removed out of your little houſe, the door ſhall be locked, and your bags laid in one of the great Coffers, ſo that they ſhall be ſafe, I truſt.

Richard Charles and John Dow have fetched home the [3] Child

[2] Countewery muſt mean his Counter, Deſk, or Board to ſit and write, &c. at.

[3] The Child now brought home ſeems to have been at nurſe at Rockland Toſts. Williams's ſituation at Blickling appears to have been an improper one.

from

Rokelond toftes and it is apraty boy and it is told me y^{t} wyll is att Blyklȳg w^{t} a pore man of ye town a yonge woman that was ſometyme w^{t} Burton of this town ſent me word y'of I p'y yow ſend me word if ye woll y^{t} any thyng y^{t} ye woll be do to hym or ye com hom Ric' Charles ſend^{t} yow word y^{t} Wylles hath be at hym here and offerd hym to make hym aſtate in all thyngs accordīg to ther in dentur and if he do the contrary ye ſhall ſone have word my moder p'yith yow for to remembr my ſuſt^{r} and to do yor p'te feythfully or ye come hom to help to gette her agode [4] mariage it ſemyth be my moders langage y^{t} ſhe wold nev^{r} ſo fayn to have be delyu'yd of her as ſhe woll now it was told here that Knyvet the Heyer is for to mary bothe his wyff and child be dede as it was told here Wherfor ſhe wold y^{t} ye ſhuld inquyr whedd^{r} it beſo or no and what hys lyvelode is and if ye thynke y^{t} it be for to do to lete hym be ſpoke w^{t} y'of I p'y yow y^{t} ye be not ſtrange of wrytīg of letters to me be twix y^{is} and y^{t} ye come hom if I myght J wold have ev^{r}y day on from yow the blyſſed t'nyte have yow ī his kepȳg wrete att Norwyche on ye teſday next aft^{r} ye cōv^{r}con ſeynt poull.

Be yours,

[5] M. P.

11 ¼ by 8.

[4] The marriage of his ſiſter Elizabeth was an object of great conſequence to his mother, as thoſe two did not, from many things which occur, agree properly together; but I cannot aſcertain, from the Pedigree of the family of Knevet, which of them is here meant.

from Rockland Tofts, and it is a pretty boy; and it is told me that Will is at Blickling with a poor man of the town; a young woman that was ſome time with Burton of this town ſent me word thereof; I pray you ſend me word if ye will that any thing that ye will be done to him ere ye come home. Richard Charles ſendeth you word, that Willes hath been at him here, and offered him to make him eſtate in all things according to their indenture, and if he do the contrary ye ſhall ſoon have word.

My Mother prayeth you for to remember my Siſter, and to do your part faithfully ere ye come home to help to get her a good [4] marriage; it ſeemeth by my mother's language that ſhe would never ſo fain to have be delivered of her as ſhe will now.

It was told here that Knivet the heir is for to marry; both his wife and child be dead, as it was told here; wherefore ſhe would that ye ſhould enquire whether it be ſo or no, and what his livelihood is, and if ye think that it be for to do, to let him be ſpoken with thereof.

I pray you that ye be not ſtrange of writing of Letters to me betwixt this and that ye come home, if I might I would have every day one from you. The bleſſed Trinity have you in his keeping. Written at Norwich, on the Tueſday next after the Converſion *(of)* Saint Paul. (25 *January*.)

By yours,

[5] MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich,
Tueſday January,
ſometime
before 1459. 38 H. VI.

5 Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25. Seal a Fleur de lys. Pl. XXIII. N° 7.

LETTER LXXXJ.

To my Right worſhypfull
moder Agnes Paſton.

RIGHT worſhipfull and my moſt entierly belovde mod^{r} in the moſt louly man^{r} I recomaund me unto yo^{r}e gode moderhode beſekeyng you dayly And myghtly of yor moderly bliſſing Ev^{r}mor deſiryng to her of yor welfare And p'ſp^{r}ite ye which I p'y god to contynw And encreſce to your herts deſyre And yf it lyked your gode moderhode to here of me And how I do at the makyng of this l're I was in gode hele of body tanked be Ihu And as for my Mayſt^{r} my beſt beloved that ye call And I muſt nedes call hym ſo now for I fynde noon oy^{r} cauſe And as I truſt to Jhu non ſhall for he is full kynde unto me And is as beſy as he can to make me ſur of my joyntor wherto he is j bounde in a bonde of m^{l} li. to you moder and to my broy^{r} Iohn and to my broy^{r} Will'm And to Edmund [1] Clere the which neded no ſuch bond Wherfore I beſeke you gode moder as our moſt ſyng'ler troſt is yn your gode moderhode that my maiſtr my beſt beloved fayle not of the C m'rc at the begynnyng of this t'me the which ye p'myſed hym to his mariage w^{t} the Remanent of the money of Faders wille. For I have p'mytted faithfully to a gentilman called Bain that was oon of my beſt beloved ſuertees

The dutiful Addreſs of Elizabeth Poynings, daughter of Sir William and Agnes Paſton, to her mother, and the handſome manner in which ſhe ſpeaks of her huſband, would do honour to a modern daughter and wife; and the anxiety ſhe ſhews that her huſband might be able to diſcharge his ſureties, is both pleaſing and commendable.

In 1457, when unmarried, ſhe lived with Lady Pole, as appears from Letter XXXV.

LETTER LXXXI.

To my right worſhipful Mother Agnes Paſton.

RIGHT worſhipful and my moſt entirely beloved mother, in the moſt lowly manner I recommend me unto your good motherhood, beſeeching you daily and nightly of your motherly bleſſing, evermore deſiring to hear of your welfare and proſperity, the which I pray God to continue and increaſe to your heart's deſire; and if it liked your motherhood to hear of me and how I do at the making of this letter, I was in good hele (*health*) of body thanked be Jeſu; and as for my maſter, my beſt beloved that ye call, and I muſt needs call him ſo now, for I find none other cauſe, and as I truſt to Jeſu never ſhall, for he is full kind unto me, and is as buſy as he can to make me ſure of my Jointure, whereto he is bound in a Bond of a thouſand pounds to you mother, and to my brother John, and to my brother William, and to Edmund [1] Clere, the which needed no ſuch bond; wherefore, I beſeech you good mother, as our moſt ſingular truſt is in your good motherhood, that my maſter, my beſt beloved, fail not of the hundred marks (66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) at the beginning of this term, the which ye promiſed him to his marriage, with the remanent of the money of my father's will; for I have promitted (*promiſed*) faithfully to a Gentleman called Bain, that was one of my beſt beloved's ſure-

XXXV. vol. i. p. 143. She had been now lately married to Robert Ponyngs, or Poynings, whom ſhe ſurvived, and afterwards married Sir George Browne, of Beechworth Caſtle, in Surrey, and was living in 1485.

[1] Edmund Clere, was the ſecond ſon of John Clere, Eſq. of Ormeſby, and died in 1463.

ſuertees And was bounde for hym in CC li. of which he Reherſeth for to Ryſeyve at the begynnyng of thys t'me Cxx li. And yf he fayle y'of at this tyme he wille clayme the hool of us the which were to us to grete an hurt And he con not make an ende w^t noon of hys oy^r ſuertees w^toute this ſeyd ſylv^r And that con my broy^r Iohn telle yow wel j nough and it luſteth hym to do ſoo And in all oy^r thyngs As to my lady Pool w^t hom I ſoie^rned that ye wul be my tendr and gode moder that ſhe may be payde for all the coſtes doon to me before my maryage and to Xpofre Houſon as ye wrote unto my broy^r Iohn that it ſhuld have ben ſo. And yat it pleſe your gode moderhode to yeve credence to Will'm Worceſtr And Jhu for his grete m^rcy ſave yow Written at london the Wendyſday the iij day of Janyver.

By your humble Doughter,

[a] Elyzabeth Ponynggs.

12 by 6 ½.

Paper Mark,
a Pair of Scales
within a Circle.
Plate xxii. N° 14.

[a] Autograph. Pl. xx. N° 26.

ties, and was bound for him in two hundred pounds, of which he rehearſeth for to receive at the beginning of this term one hundred and twenty pounds, and if he fail thereof at this time, he will claim the whole of us, the which were to us too great an hurt; and he cannot make an end with none of his other ſureties without this ſaid ſilver, and that can my brother John tell you well enough and it luſteth (*liſteth*) him to do ſo, and in all other things. As to my Lady Pool, with whom I ſojourned, that ye will be my tender and good mother, that ſhe may be paid for all the coſts done to me before my marriage, and to Chriſtopher Houſon, as ye wrote unto my brother John, that it ſhould have been ſo; and that it pleaſe your good motherhood to give credence to William Worceſter; and Jeſu for his great mercy ſave you! Written at London, the Wedneſday the 3 day of January.

By your humble Daughter,

ELIZABETH PONYNGGS.

London, Wedneſday,
3 January, 1458-9.
37 H. VI.

LETTER LXXXIJ.

To the right worchepfull
Sr John Paſton at Norwich.

RYGHT worchepfull Sr. I recūaunde me un to you leke you to wete my Maiſtr Faſtolf [1] Compert is ſpedde and demyd in ye Eſchequyer for hym a yens ye kyng wher in was Crafti labor and cloos to the ſeid ſpede and laked no dylygence for ye matr was defuſed and dubble Jntendementz aft' dyu'ſe mennys appynyons her is Williem Brandon late [2] Eſchetour and wold have a [3] non Moleſtando for Fulthorp and be cauſe ye ſpake to me yt no mo ſhuld be ſued owte and I can gete no [4] lybarate in yt caſe y'fore as it is tolde me he wyll haue oon up on Wenteworth is patente And yt wer to my Maiſtr boye velleny and hurte J p'y you ſend me heryn your avyſe it is no grete maiſtre to gader up yt mony if it wer wele labord I haue ſomwhat affrayed yem and made hem ſpend mony as J wot well ye ſhall her y'of ye and I been diſcharged of our maynprys Now Sr for goddis ſake as I have meved you a fore help to ſette my Maiſtr in a worchepful dyreccon of his Maters to his honour his p'fyte and his hertis eaſe yt which ſo doon he ſhall haue ye bettr leyſour to dyſſpoſe hym ſelf godly and be ſette his londs and his goodys to ye

The firſt part of this Letter relates entirely to law proceedings, the latter part likewiſe is on the ſame ſubject, but as it contains the fair and honeſt advice of a friend and relation, of one who ſeems to have an intereſt in the character which Sir John Faſtolf ſhould leave here, and in his eternal happineſs hereafter, I thought ſuch a Letter would be pleaſing to the Reader.

[1] Compertorium is a judicial inqueſt in civil proceedings, made by Commiſſioners to find out, &c. the truth of a cauſe.

LETTER LXXXII.

To the right worſhipful Sir, John Paſton, at Norwich.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me unto you, like you to weet my Maſter Faſtolf's [1] Compert is ſped and deemed in the Exchequer for him againſt the King, wherein was crafty labour and cloſe to the ſaid ſpeed, and lacked no diligence, for the matter was diffuſed and double intendments after divers men's opinions.

Here is William Brandon, late [2] Eſcheator, and (*he*) would have a [3] non moleſtando for Fulthorpe, and becauſe ye ſpake to me that no more ſhould be ſued out, and I can get no [4] Liberate in that caſe, therefore as it is told me, he will have one upon Wentworth's Patent, and that were to my Maſter both villainy and hurt; I pray you ſend me herein your advice, it is no great matter to gather up that money, if it were well laboured; I have ſomewhat affrayed (*frightened*) them, and made them ſpend money, as I wot well ye ſhall hear thereof. Ye and I be diſcharged of our mainpriſe.

Now Sir, for God's ſake as I have moved you afore, help to ſet my Maſter in a worſhipful direction of his matters to his honour, his profit, and his heart's eaſe, the which ſo done he ſhall have the better leiſure to diſpoſe himſelf godly, and beſet (*ordain*)

[2] A County Officer who takes notice of the King's Eſcheats, and certifies them into the Exchequer.

[3] A Writ which lies for him who is moleſted contrary to the King's protection granted him.

[4] An original warrant iſſuing out of the Exchequer for the payment of any annual penſions, &c. granted under the great ſeal.

his

pleſour of god and ye wele of his ſowle y^t^ all men may ſey he deyeth a wyſe man And a worchepfull yf ye wyſte what worchep ſhuld growe to you in favour and Conſeyte of all men yus to do I wot well ye wolde be right ſpedy y'in For J beleve fully ye ar ryght well wylled y'to and if owte J Cowde helpe y'to at myn nexte Comyng yf I knew your entent I wold do y^t^ I cowde yf it like you to wryte your avyſe in a bylle y^t^ I myght haue it by good fryday at Seint Benettys Williem Norwyche wol ſend it yeder the holy Trinyte Conſ've you in hono^r^ and p'ſp^r^ite from london ye furſt day of Marche.

Yo^r^,

[5] **Hugh a Fenne.**

11 ½ by 6 ¾.

[5] The firſt of the Family of Fenn, of whom I find any certain information was Ralph de Fenne, who was witneſs to a Deed of Geoffry Plantagenet, a younger Son of King Henry II. dated at London, between 1154 and 1186, when Geoffry was killed by the Horſes at a Tournament at Paris.

This Family had poſſeſſions both in Yorkſhire and Norfolk, in the latter of which Counties Clement de Fenne had Eſtates, at Edinethorpe early in the 14th Century; and from whom, after four or five generations, was deſcended, Hugh a Fenne, or Hugh at Fenne, the writer of this Letter.

Hugh Fenn was at this time Lord and Patron of Icburgh, to which Church he preſented in 1454, 1461, and 1472. He purchaſed the Manors of Burdelos and Newlands in Sculton, of which he died ſeized. This Manor was held by this tenure, that the Lord thereof on the Coronation-day of the Kings of England ſhould be chief Lardiner, and ſhould have for his Fees the proviſions remaining after dinner in the Larder.

He had a Manor in Sco-Ruſton, which came afterwards to his Couſin Sir Edmund Jenney. He purchaſed of the Prior and Convent of Caſtleacre, the Advowſon of the Church of Heringby, and dying in 1475, 15 E. IV. he directed by his Will (dated February 4,) to be buried in that Church by his Mother. He gave 100 Marks to new roof the Church of Heringby, and 500 Marks to repair the ſteeple of the Cathedral at Norwich, and other ſums to the repair of the Highways, &c. Autograph. Pl. xx. N° 28. Seal. Pl. xiv. N° 13.

his lands and his goods to the pleaſure of God, and the weal of his ſoul, that all men may ſay he dieth a wiſe man and a worſhipful; if ye wiſt what worſhip ſhould grow to you in favour and conceit of all men thus to do, I wot well ye would be right ſpeedy therein, for I believe fully ye are right well willed thereto, and if ought I could help thereto at my next coming, if I knew your intent, I would do that I could; if it like you to write your advice in a bill that I might have it by Good Friday, at Saint Benet's, William Norwich would ſend it thither.

The Holy Trinity conſerve you in honour and proſperity.

From London, the 1ſt day of March.

Your,

5 HUGH A FENNE.

London, Thurſday,
1ſt of March, 1458-9,
37 H. VI.

He directed a College or Hoſpital, to be called God's Poor Almes-houſe, to be founded in the Town of Heringby, for the maintenance of which he aſſigned Eſtates in Edinethorpe, &c. and directed his Wife Ellenor Fenn, and his Couſin William Jenney, Serjeant-at-law, to ſee this part of his Will performed. At the diſſolution, in 1545, this Hoſpital, &c. was granted to Sir Thomas Clere, Knight.

Hugh Fenne was a Lawyer of eminence, and was highly eſteemed by Sir John Faſtolf and J. Paſton, both as a Counſellor, Relation, and Friend. There was at this time another perſon of the ſame name, and of the ſame Family, Sir Hugh Fenn, Knight, Treaſurer of the Houſehold to Henry VI. whoſe Wife Dame Ellenor, was buried in St. Bartholomew's Priory, in London, and by whom he had an only Daughter and heir Margaret, the Wife of Sir George Neville, Lord Abergavenny, who was knighted at Tewkeſbury, in 1471, attended the Coronation of Richard III. in 1483, and died in 1492; from their third Son Sir Edward Neville, a moſt valiant Knight and Soldier, the preſent Henry Neville, Earl of Abergavenny, is lineally deſcended.

LETTER LXXXIII.

To my ryght wyrſchypful Fadre
John Paſton eſquyer be thys lettr
delyv,yd in haſty wyſe.

RYGHT Worſchypful Syr jn the moſt lowly wyſe I comaund me to yowr good Faderhod Beſechyng yow of yowre blyſſyng mut it pleſe yowr faderhod to remembre and concydre the peyn and henyneſſe y^{t} it hathe ben to me ſyn yowr dep^{r}tyng owt of thys contre' here abydyng tyl the tyme it pleaſe yow to ſchewe me grace And tyl the tyme that by reporte my demenyng be to yowr pleſyng Beſechyng yow to concydre y^{t} I may not her haue noo mene to ſeke to yow as I awght to do and ſauyng vnder thys Forme whych I beſech yow be not take to no dyſpleſur ner am not of power to do any thynge in thys contre for Worſchyp or profyht of yow ner eaſe of yowr tenantys whych myght and ſcholde be to yowr pleaſyng. Wherfor I beſeche yow of yowr Faderly pyte to tendre ye more thys ſymple wryghtyng As I ſchal owt of dowght her after doo y^{t} ſchal pleaſe yow to ye uttermeſt of my power and labor And if ther be any ſervyce y^{t} I may do if it pleaſe yow to Comaund me or if y maye underſtonde it J wyl be as glad to do it as any thyng erthely if it wer any

We ſee here a plain, manly, and ſenſible Letter from a Son, who by ſome miſconduct had given his father offence; his ſorrow for having done amiſs is properly expreſſed, and his promiſes for future amendment appear to be ſincere.

The offence ſeems to have been ſome perſonal ill behaviour to his father, if we may judge

LETTER LXXXIII.

To my right worſhipful Father, John Paſton, Eſquire, be this Letter delivered in haſty wiſe.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, in the moſt lowly wiſe I commend me to your good fatherhood, beſeeching you of your bleſſing; might it pleaſe your fatherhood to remember and conſider the pain and heavineſs that it hath been to me ſince your departing out of this country, here abiding till the time it pleaſe you to ſhew me grace, and till the time that by report my demeaning be to your pleaſing; beſeeching you to conſider that I may not, nor have no mean to ſeek you as I ought to do, ſaving under this form, which I beſeech you be not taken to no diſpleaſure, nor am not of power to do any thing in this country for worſhip or profit of you, nor eaſe of your tenants which might and ſhould be to your pleaſing; wherefore I beſeech you of your fatherly pity to tender the more this ſimple writing; as I ſhall out of doubt hereafter do that ſhall pleaſe you to the uttermoſt of my power and labour; and if there be any ſervice that I may do, if it pleaſe you to command me, or if I may underſtand it, I will be as glad to do it as any thing earthly, if it

judge from what he ſays here, and from what his Mother mentions in a Letter to J. Paſton in the following month, (ſee Letter XLIV. Vol. I. p. 175.)

Autograph. Pl. xx. N° 29.

This is the firſt Letter in this Collection from John, afterwards Sir John Paſton, knight.

any thyng yᵗ myght be to yowr pleaſyng And no mor but Allmyghty god haue yow in kepyng Wretyn the v day of Marche.

By your older Sone,

John Paſton.

11 ½ by 5 ½.

Paper Mark,
A Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. xxii. N° 13.

LETTER LXXXIV.

RIGHT high and myghty Prynce my right noble and good lord in my right humble wyſe I recomaunde me to your good grace And for the noble lordſhip and ſupportacon ſhewid unto me at all tymes I beſeche our lord god guerdon yow Where as I may noᵗ but only as yoʳ daily and contynuell bedeman now in myn age pray for the good p'ſpʳite of youre right highe and noble eſtate as I am gretly bounde to doo prayng tendirly yoʳe highneſſe to contynue yoʳe good lordſhip and ſupportacon in the matᵉs touchyng yoʳ ſʳunt John Porter and my pore Chappelleyn Sʳ Thomas Howes truſtyng verily to god that with the ſupportacon of your good lordſhip there mater ſhall yette Come to agood Concluſion in puniſshyng of pʳjurʸ and embracery that many yeris hathe ben and yette is uſid in this Shire whiche

were

were any thing that might be to your pleaſing. And no more, but Almighty God have you in keeping. Written at Norwich, the 5th day of March.

By your elder Son,

JOHN PASTON.

Norwich,
Monday, 5th of March,
1458-9. 37 H. VI.

LETTER LXXXIV.

RIGHT high and mighty Prince, my right noble and good Lord, in my right humble wiſe I recommend me to your good grace, and for the noble lordſhip and ſupportation ſhewed unto me at all times, I beſeech our Lord God guerdon (*reward*) you, whereas I may not, but only as your daily and continual Beadſman now in mine age pray for the good proſperity of your right high and noble eſtate, as I am greatly bound to do; praying tenderly your highneſs to continue your good lordſhip and ſupportation in the matters touching your ſervant John Porter, and my poor Chaplain Sir Thomas Howes, truſting verily to God, that with the ſupportation of your good lordſhip, their matters ſhall yet come to a good concluſion in puniſhing of perjury and embracery that many years hath been and yet is uſed

were grete merite And to my Conceyte in yow that ar ſoo noble a prynce a ſingler reno'une as for the beſte dede that may be doo for the weel of bothe ſhires And in like wiſe that it pleaſe youre right good grace to Contynue youre noble fauour and ſupportacon to me in remedyeng the force doon by Sr Philip Wentworth kepyng now wrongful poſſeſſion of certeyn londes in Suff. nygh youre caſtel of Framyngh'm whiche londs certeyn of my frendes to myn uſe haue of the kyng's graunte by his lres patent byfore ony patent that the ſeid Sr Philip hathe whiche is my ſingler matier in myn owen p^{r}te that I haue now to doo as my Coſyn Paſton can enforme yowr lordſhip for he knowith the mater and myn hole entente to whom yor good grace lyke to yife credence he Cometh to awaite upon yor. lordſhip at this tyme as I underſtande by my Coſyn youre S^{r}uaunt Richard Suthwell youre lordſhip deſired.

Right highe and myghty prynce my noble and right good lord I beſeche the holy goſte be with yow And eu^{r}e more ſende yow the Accompliſhment of youre right noble deſires to his pleſir

As this is the only Letter in this collection written by Sir John Faſtolf to a man of ſuperior rank to himſelf, I have given it, that his manner of expreſſing himſelf in ſuch a ſituation may be ſeen. The Letter has no direction, having been originally encloſed in a cover, but by the contents is plainly intended for the Duke of Norfolk, his "Caſtle of Framlingham" being mentioned.

The time of its being written too can be nearly aſcertained, Sir John mentioning not only his age, but in the part that is intended to be eraſed, his infirmities likewiſe, we may therefore conclude it was written in the laſt year of his life. Autograph. Pl. II. N° 15. He died in November 1459, and the Duke in 1461.

Richard

in this ſhire, which were great merit, and to my conceit, in you that are ſo noble a Prince, a ſingular renown, as for the beſt deed that may be done for the weal of both ſhires.

And in like wiſe that it pleaſe your right good grace to continue your noble favour and ſupportation to me in remedying the force done by Sir Philip Wentworth, keeping now wrongful poſſeſſion of certain lands in Suffolk, nigh your caſtle of Framlingham, which lands certain of my friends to my eaſe, have of the King's grant by his Letters Patent before any patent that the ſaid Sir Philip hath, which is mine ſingular matter in mine own part, that I have now to do, as my Couſin Paſton can inform your Lordſhip, for he knoweth the matter and mine whole intent, to whom your good grace like to give credence, he cometh to await upon your Lordſhip at this time, as I underſtand by my couſin your ſervant Richard Southwell, your lordſhip deſired *(this is ſcratched out, but legible, " and to pardonne me for neceſſite cauſeth me in as moche as I may not come in myn owne p^rſone as my will were.")*

Right high and mighty Prince my noble and right good Lord I beſeech the Holy Ghoſt be with you, and ever more ſend you the accompliſhment of your right noble deſires to his pleaſure and yours.

Richard Southwell was the ſon of Alice, daughter and co-heir of Sir Edmund Berry, knight, and married Amy, daughter and co-heir of Sir Edmund Witchingham, of Wood-Riſing, by Alice, daughter and heir of John Faſtolf, Eſq. by which means he was related both to Sir J. Faſtolf and to J. Paſton.

Sir Philip Wentworth, knight, of Nettleſted, in Suffolk, was the ſon of Roger Wentworth, Eſq. by Margery Lady Roos, daughter and heir of Sir Philip Spencer, knight, by Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of John Tiptofte, Earl of Worceſter: he married Mary, daughter of Lord Clifford. The Eſtate at Nettleſted continued in this family till the reign of Charles I. when it was ſold.

Written

pleſir and youres Writen at my pore place of Caſtre the ij^{de}. day of Aprill.

Yo^{r} humble man and ſ^{r}vñt,

J. Fakolf.

11 ½ by 6.

LETTER LXXXII.

To my May'ſt^{r}. Jon Paſtone Eſqwyer be this lett^{r}. p'ſentid.

Jhu m'cy.

RYTE rev'ent mayſt' &c. as ſone as ze may goodly comyth to caſtre and zelv'ton w^{t} zow and ze thi'k it to be don'. And ſendyth home zo' men and hors. tyl ze haf do here, &c. And by grace of god And zo' polityk Wiſdh'm ze ſchal co'clude mor' effectualy in gret maty's of ſubſtans to my mayſt'ys and zo' worſchip and profyte It is hey tyme he drawyt faſt home ward. And is ryte lowe browt And ſore weykid and feblyd, &c. And ze muſte bryng w^{t} zow a forme of a ſupplicacyon made at london in what man' wyſe M. R. popy a cu'ny'g and a crafty man ſchal preſenty' and purpoſy' to the ky'g for the inmorteyſig' of Caſtr' to ſeynt benet, &c. Which he p'mittyd up a c'teyn mony, &c. And undirtoke it, &c. And fond that tyme no bonys i' the mat'e, &c. And now he ſeyth he wil labo' and ryde and do hiſe part, &c. And he wold haf me to help hy' &c. q' no' fiet, &c.

or

Written at my poor place of Caiſter, the Second day of April.

Your humble man and Servant,

JOHN FASTOLF.

Caiſter,
2d of April.
About 1459. 37 H. VI.

LETTER LXXXV.

To my Maſter John Paſton, Eſq. be this Letter preſented.

Jeſu mercy.

RIGHT reverend Maſter, &c. as ſoon as ye may goodly come to Caiſter and Yelverton with you, and ye think it be to done and ſend home your men and horſes till ye have done here, &c. and by grace of God and your politic wiſdom ye ſhall conclude more effectually in great matters of ſubſtance to my Maſter's and your worſhip and profit. It is high time, he draweth faſt homeward, and is right low brought, and ſore weykid *(weakened)* and feblyd *(enfeebled)* &c. And ye muſt bring with you a form of a Supplication made at London, in what manner wiſe Maſter R. Popy, a cunning and a crafty man, ſhall preſent and purpoſe to the King for the amortiſing of Caiſter to Saint Bennet's, &c. which he promitted up (*promiſed upon*) a certain money, &c. and undertook it, &c. and found (*at*) that time no bones in the matter, &c. And now he ſaith he will labour and ride and do his part, &c. and he would have me help him, &c.

or ell' a man of credens of my maſt'ys &c. q' dubito fieri &c. god bry'g zow ſone hidyr &c. for j am weri tyl ze come Sir tho's the p'ſon zor owne moſt tr'we &c. be my' tr'wthe. And j zo' bedema' and zowrs at zo' coma'ndme't i' zo' lett' haf no mor' towchid of the mat' &c. to my mayſt' &c. Ev'y day this v dayes he ſeyth god ſend me ſone my good coſyn paſton for I holde hy' a feythful man And ev' on man. Cui ego. that is ſoth &c. & ille Schew me not the mete ſchew me the man h' v'ba replicat ſepis cu' magō ſtòcho &c. Colins Gallics dt i' Iernemuta & aiis loc's ſe ec executor'z &c. Dixt ecia' heri coram plr'ibz ſi ſemel fu'it london' nu' q' wlt vider' Norfolchia' &c. Dt ecia' v'bi executors c' du't ſe habituros claves &c. p' morte' alii habebu't claves. ita b'n' ſic illi &c. falſiſſis e' & ego b'n' dixi ī partem ſuam i't' ip'm & me &c. p'pt' deu' faciatis Spirly'g ve'irc jux' p'miſm' in f'cū &c. Gallics ip'e maxie odit rector'm & vellz ſupplantar' eu' &c. It' valde deſiderat ſuu' quiet e' q' abſit &c. he'ric Todyh'm c'ti'e aſpirat p' morte' magr'i cu' mille habeat oc'los nocendi &c. ſi qō ru' duos dep'der't nulls cet'os timeret &c.

8 ½ by 5 ½.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

This Letter appears to have been written not long before the death of Sir John Faſtolf, which happened in November 1459. He here expreſſes his anxiety for the ſettlement of his Eſtate at Caiſter for the purpoſes of religion, and wiſhes much for the preſence of his Couſin Paſton.

LET-

quod non fiet, &c. or elſe a man of credence of my Maſter's &c. quod dubito fieri, &c. God bring you ſoon hither, &c. for I am weary till ye come. Sir Thomas the parſon your own moſt true, &c. by my truth, and I your Beadſman, and yours at your commandment in your Letter have no more touched of the matter, &c. to my maſter, &c. Every day this five days he ſaith, "God ſend me ſoon my good Couſin Paſton, for I hold him a faithful man, and ever one man cui ego, that is ſooth, &c." et ille, "Shew me not the meat, ſhew me the man," hæc verba replicat ſæpius cum magno ſtomacho, &c. Colinus Gallicus dicit in Iernmuthia & aliis locis ſe eſſe executorem, &c. dixit etiam heri coram pluribus ſi ſemel fuerit Londinum nunquam vult videre Norfolciam, &c. dixit etiam ubi executores credunt ſe habituros claves, &c. poſt mortem alii habebunt claves, ita bene ſicut illi, &c. falſiſſimus eſt & ego bene dixi in partem ſuam inter ipſum & me, &c. proper Deum faciatis Spirlyng venire juxta promiſſum in .. .. &c. Gallicus ipſe maxime odit rectorem & vellet ſupplantare eum, &c. Item valde deſiderat ſuum, quietus eſt quia abſit, &c.

Henricus Todynham continue aſpirat poſt mortem magiſtri cum mille habeat oculos nocendi, &c. ſi quorum duos deperderit, nullus cæteros timeret, &c.

JOHN BRACKLEY.

1459. 37 H. VI.

The ſtyle of the Letter is particular, and the language a mixture of Latin and Engliſh.

Colinus Gallicus means William Worceſter, of whom Dr. Brackley does not ſeem to have had a good opinion.

On the back of the Letter is written in an ancient hand, "Lrā p'ris Doctoris Brackley p' quā patet Jo. Faſtolf valde deſideraſſe p'ſentiam conſanguinei ſui Jo. Paſton."

Autograph: Pl. xx. N° 25.

LETTER LXXXIJ.

Cariſſimo ſuo magr'o
Joh'i Paſton Armigero.

IHs Maria, &c.

RYTE rev'ent mayſt' and moſt truſty Frend in erthe as lowly as I kan or may j r'coma'nde me &c. Syr in feyth j was ſor' aferd that ze had a gret letty'g that ze come noton Wednyſday to met &c. be my' feythe And ze had be her' ze ſchuld haf had ryte good chere &c. And hafe faryd ryte wele aft' zo' pleſer' &c. w^t more &c. Sir jon Tatirſhall is at one w^t Heydon &c. And lord Skalys hath made a ¹lofeday w^t the p'o^r And Heydon in alle mat'ys except the mat'e of Snoryng &c. And the ſeyd pryo' ſpake mayſt'ly to the jurro'ys &c. And told hem And they had dred god And hurt of here fowlys they wold haf ſome i'ſtruc'yon of the one p'ty as wele as of the oy' but

This Letter was written after the diſperſion of the Duke of York's army near Ludlow, in October 1459, as the tranſactions here related, refer to the direction of ſtate affairs when in the hands of Henry's Friends.

Commiſſions were granted to James Butler, Earl of Wiltſhire, and Thomas Lord Scales and others to appprehend all thoſe who had been concerned in the late rebellion, and to puniſh them according to law.

It appears here that J. Paſton was ſuppoſed to favour the York party, and from the expreſſions contained in Dr. Brackley's Letters he certainly did ſo.

Brother John Brakle or Brackley, the ſon of John Brakle, a dyer, was born at Norwich, and about the year 1418, 6 H. V. entered when very young into the Convent of the Grey Friars, or Friars Minors at Norwich; he afterwards took a Doctor's degree in Divinity, and became a famous preacher. He was an intimate Friend of, and Chaplain to Sir John Faſtolf, who appointed him one of his executors; he was alſo much connected with the Paſton Family, being Chaplain to the Judge, and Tutor to Sir John Paſton his grandſon. He died in the year 1461 or 1462, and was buried in the Church of his own Convent. Autograph. Pl. xx. N° 25.

LETTER LXXXVI.

Cariſſimo ſuo magiſtro Johanni Paſton Armigero.

Jeſus, Maria, &c.

RIGHT reverend maſter and moſt truſty friend in earth as lowly as I can or may, I recommend me, &c.

Sir, in faith I was ſore afraid that ye had a great letting, that ye came not on Wedneſday to meet, &c. by my faith and (*if*) ye had been here ye ſhould have had right good cheer, &c. and have fared right well after your pleaſure, &c. with more, &c.

Sir John Tatirſhale is at one with Heydon, &c. and Lord Scales hath made a [1] Love-day with the Prior and Heydon in all matters, except the matter of Snoring, &c. And the ſaid Prior ſpake maſterly to the Jurors, &c. and told them, and (*if*) they had dreaded God and hurt of their ſouls they would have ſome inſtruction of the one party, as well as of the other, but

The ſtyle and language of his Letters here produced, are very different from thoſe of the other writers of this period here brought together, as they abound with Quotations from the Old and New Teſtament, and are often intermixed with ſentences in Latin of his own compoſition.

I have endeavoured to give theſe Letters to the Reader as accurately as poſſible, but in two or three places I have been obliged to omit a ſentence or two, as the contractions, added to the ſmallneſs and confuſedneſs of the hand-writing, have made them ſo illegible, that after the moſt careful attention and examination, I have been forced to give up the decyphering; and I have likewiſe referred the Reader to the places whence the Quotations are taken.

[1] Loſe-days or Love-days, were days on which arbitrations were made, and differences ſettled amongſt neighbours.

they wer' ſo bold they were not aferd for they fownde no bonys to ſey ī her verdyte as T. T. And J. H. wold &c. A lewde docto' of ludgate p'chid on Soneday fowrtenyte at powlys chargȳg the peple that no man ſchuld preyen for theſe [2] lords trayto'ys &c. And he had lytyl thank as he was worthy &c. And for hyſe lewd demeny'g his brethir' arn had i' the leſſe favo' at london &c. Docto' Pynchebek And Docto' Weſthawe gr'te p' chowrys and p'ſonys at london bene now late made Monkys of Chart'ows at Schene one at the on place and an oy' at the oy' place &c.

The [3] Cha'nceler is not good to theſe lords &c. for he feryth the Erle of Marche wyl cleyme by inheritans the Erldam of [4] Ha .. .. &c. of which mat' j herd gret ſpeche in ſom'cede ſchyr' &c Wydh'm Heydon Tody'h'm Blake W Cha'birleyn Wentworth have late co'myſſyonys to take for treto'ys and ſend to the next gayl alle p'ſonys fawto'ys and weelwyllerys to the ſeyd lords &c. Mayſt' Radclyff And ze haf none of Com'yſſyonys directid to zow &c. for ze bene holdy' favo'abil &c. Wy'dh'm And Heydon bene namyd here Cauſerys of the c'myſſyonys &c. On moneday laſt at [5] Crowme' was the Ore and the bokys of regyſtre of the Amrelte taky' a wey fro' my lord Scalys men be a gr't multitude of my lord Roſſys &c. the lord Skalys is to my lord p'nce &c. to wayte on hy' &c. he ſeyth p' deu' ſ'c'm as we ſey her' he ſchal be Amrel or he ſchal ly ther' by &c. be my

[2] We have here an inſtance of the pulpit being uſed for political purpoſes, and the Lords here meant were the Earls of March, Warwick, and Saliſbury, and others in the Duke of York's intereſt.

[3] William de Wainfleet, Biſhop of Wincheſter.

[4] The Original Letter is here defective.

ſeyth.

they were ſo bold, they were not afraid, for they found no bones to ſay in their verdict as Thomas Todenham and John Heydon would, &c.

A lewd Doctor of Ludgate preached on Sunday fort'night at Paul's, charging the people that no man ſhould pray for theſe [2] Lords Traytors, &c. and he had little thank, as he was worthy, &c. and for his lewd demeaning, all his brethren are had in the leſs favour at London, &c. Dr. Pinchbeck and Dr. Weſthawe, great Preachers and Parſons at London, be now late made Monks of Charter-Houſe at Sheen, one at the one place, and another at the other place, &c.

The [3] Chancellor is not good to theſe Lords, &c. for he feareth the Earl of March will claim by inheritance the Earldom of [4] Ha .. .. .. &c. of which matter I heard great ſpeech in Somerſetſhire, &c.

Wyndham, Heydon, Todenham, Blake, W. Chamberleyne, and Wentworth have late Commiſſions to take for Traytors and ſend to the next gaol all perſons fautorers *(favourers)* and well-willers to the ſaid Lords, &c. Maſter Radcliff and ye have none of commiſſions directed to you, &c. for ye be holden favourable, &c.

Wyndham and Heydon be named here cauſers of theſe commiſſions, &c.

On Monday laſt at Cromer was the Oar and the Books of regiſtry of the Admiralty taken away from my Lord Scales's men by a great multitude of my Lord Roos's men, &c. the Lord Scales is to my Lord Prince, &c. to wait on him, &c. he ſaith per Deum ſanctum, as we ſay here, he ſhall be Admiral, or he

[5] Cromer is a ſea-port, on the north part of the Norfolk coaſt, where the Court of Admiralty appears to have been held by the Lord Scales, as Lord Admiral of the County. The Lord Roos here mentioned was moſt probably in the oppoſite intereſt.

ſhall

feyth here is a coyſy werd Walſh'm of Cha'ncery that nev' made leſyng told me that Bokky'g was w^{t} my lord Cha'nceler this t'me but j aſkyd not how many tymys &c. As I haf wryty' to zow ofty' byfor this. Facite vob' A'icos de mam'o'a i'iq'tat's q' de T. T. I. H and J W cu' cet'is m'ri Faſtolf fallacibz fam'lis magna' gerūt ad vos i'vidia' q^{d} exceller't's eos i' bonis, &c. Iudas no' dormit &c. Noli zelare facie'tes i'iq'tate' qui' ta'q' fenu' velocit' areſcēt and q^{e}m admod' olera h'baru' cito p' d'i gra'z decident Jdo' ſe' i' p^{o} ſpera i' d'uo & fac bo'itate' & paſc'is i'di'ciis e^{s} & del'tar i' d'no & dabit t' petico'es Cord's tui & ali' jacta cogitatu' tuu' i d'no & ip'e te enutriet. Utīaz i' q$^{'t}$ Ap'l's Abſcidāt q' vos c't'bant, &c. & ali' Cavete vos a malis & importunis hoibz. p'cor g' deū q' vos & me c' av^{t} & ſuo p' coſo ſa'g'ne nos r'dem^{t}. vos v'ros & v'ra g'c'oſe c'ſ'vet i' proſp'is & grac'oſius dirigat i' age'd's. Sc'pt' Wals' Fe' 4' i' nocte cu' mag' feſti'at'oe, &c.

Utia'z iſte mu'd maligu^{s}
t'nſir^{t} & c'up'ia e^{s}.

V'r ad vota prōptiſſim^{s}

Fr. J. Brackley, Mioru minim^{s}.

11 ¼ by 8 ¼.

Paper Mark,
A Flower.
Pl. xxi. N° 23.

LET.

ſhall lye thereby, &c. by my faith here is a coiſy (*unſettled*) word (*world.*) Walſham of Chancery that never made leaſing (*lying*) told me that Bocking was with my Lord Chancellor this term, but I aſked not how many times, &c.

As I have written to you often before this, "Facite vobis amicos de mammona iniquitatis," (*Luke* xvi. 9.)

Thomas Todenham, Johannes Heydon & J. Wyndham cum cæteris magiſtri Faſtolf fallacibus famulis magnam gerunt ad vos invidiam, quod excelleritis eos in bonis, &c. Judas non dormit, &c. "Noli zelare facientes iniquitatem quoniam tanquam fenum velociter arefcent, & quemadmodum olera herbarum cito per Dei gratiam decident." Ideo ſic in Pſalmo, "Spera in Domino & fac bonitatem, & paſcêris in divitiis ejus & delectare in Domino & dabit tibi petitiones cordis tui." (*Pſalm* xxxvi. *or* xxxvii. 1, 2, 3, 4.) "Et aliter. Jacta cogitatum tuum in domino, & ipſe te enutriet." (*Pſalm* liv. *or* lv. 22.) "Utinam inquit Apoſtolus abſcindantur qui vos conturbant, &c. (*Gal.* v. 12.) "Et alibi, "Cavete vos a malis and importunis hominibus." (2 *Theſſ.* iii. 2.)

Precor gratioſum Deum qui vos & me creavit & ſuo pretioſo ſanguine nos redemit, vos veſtros & veſtra gratioſe conſervet in proſperis, & gratioſius dirigat in agendis.

Scriptum, Walſham feria 4ta in nocte cum magnâ feſtinatione, &c. Utinam iſte mundus malignus tranſiret & concupiſcentia ejus. Veſter ad vota promptiſſimus.

Frater JOHANNES BRACKLEY, Minorum Minimus.

Walſham, Norfolk,
Wedneſday,
1459. 38 H. VI.

LET-

LETTER LXXXVIJ.

To my maiſtr jon
Paſton in Norffolk.

RYTHE will belovyd brodr I r'comand me to zow ſerte-fyeng zow yt on Fryday laſt was in the mornyng Wurcetr and I wer come to london be viij of ye clok and we ſpak wt my lord r Chanceler and I fund hym well diſpoſyd in all thyng and ze ſchall fynd hym ryth p'fytabyll to zow, &c. and he deſyred me to wrythe zow a lettr in hys name and put truſt in zow in gaderyng of ye good togedr and p'y zow to do ſo and have all his good owthe of evry place of his, and his awne place qwer ſo eur

We have in this Letter an account of the proceedings on the death of that renowned Knight and valiant Soldier Sir John Faſtolf, relative to his effects.

He was born about the year 1377, in the laſt year of the reign of Edward III. and is ſaid to have been brought up in the Norfolk family.

In 1408, 9 H. IV. he married in Ireland Milicent, Daughter of Robert Lord Tibetot, and Relict of Sir Stephen Scroop, by whom ſhe had a ſon Stephen.

From the year 1412, 13 H. IV. to the year 1440, 18 H. VI. he was chiefly engaged in the wars in France, where he performed many gallant actions, and acquired honour and wealth. He took the Duke of Alençon priſoner at the battle of Verneuil, in 1424, in 1425 was created Baron of Sillie le Guillem, and in 1426 was elected into the Order of the Garter.

After his return and ſettlement in his native country, he became a great builder; and at Caiſter are ſtill to be ſeen ſuch magnificent remains of his Seat or Caſtle, as even now do teſtify its former ſtate and grandeur; it was a ſquare building of brick, coped with free ſtone, each ſide of it being about 300 feet long, having a large and lofty Tower at each corner, one of which was a few years ago ſtanding almoſt entire, and of which a view is given in the title-page to this work, drawn by that accurate and ingenious Preſerver of our ancient Buildings, &c. Francis Groſe, Eſq. the Hall, we are informed, was 59 feet long and 28 broad; the whole was ſurrounded by a moat, and was a place in thoſe days of ſtrength and defence, having in the year 1469, 9 E. IV. ſuſtained a ſiege by the Duke of Norfolk, &c. After the death of Sir John Faſtolf this was for ſeveral generations the ſeat of the Paſton Family, and ſo continued until Clement Paſton, Eſq. in

LETTER LXXXVII.

To my Maſter, John Paſton, in Norfolk.

RIGHT well beloved Brother, I recommend me to you, certifying you that on Friday laſt was in the morning Worceſter and I were come to London by 8 of the clock, and we ſpake with my Lord [1] Chancellor, and I found him well diſpoſed in all things, and ye ſhall find him right profitable to you, &c.

And he deſired me to write you a letter in his name, and put truſt in you in gathering of the goods together, and pray you to do ſo, and have all his goods out of every place of his, and his

in the reign of Elizabeth, built Oxnead-hall, which then becoming their chief place of reſidence, this noble Manſion began to be neglected. About the middle of the laſt Century this Eſtate was purchaſed by the Crowes, from whom it came to the family of Bedingfield, and it is now (1788) by a female heireſs, the property of Sir John Rous, bart.

He likewiſe built a ſplendid houſe in Yarmouth, and a Palace in Southwark. At length being nearly 83 years of age, and as he ſays of himſelf in his will, dated 4th Nov. 1459, "in good remembraunce albeit gretely vexed with ſickneſs, and through age infebelyd," he departed this life, without iſſue, on Monday the 5th of November, 1459, 38 H. VI. at his Manor of Caiſter, and was moſt ſumptuouſly buried in the Conventual Church of St. Bennet in the Holm, in Norfolk, under the Arch of the new Chapel, which he had lately rebuilt there, on the ſouth ſide of the Choir or Chancel, under a marble tomb by the Body of Dame Milicent his wife.

When we conſider this our worthy Knight, as ſprung from an ancient and honourable family, inheriting ample fortunes, but immenſely increaſing them through a long, laborious, and indefatigable life, ſpent in the ſervice of his Country, and acquiring Riches at the coſt of its Enemies only; acting in a very high and exalted ſphere, renowned for his courage and conduct in the field, and his abilities in the council, diſperſing the fruits of his riches by his magnificent buildings and hoſpitality in his life time, and at his death deviſing the Capital itſelf for almoſt every purpoſe he could think of uſeful to the public, can we help exclaiming, Thou haſt founded the fair fabric of thy fame upon a rock to laſt for ages!

[1] William de Wainfleet, Biſhop of Wincheſter.

eu^{r} they wer and ley it ſecr'tly wer as ze thowth beſt at zowr aſſyne-mēt and tyll y^{t} he ſpeke w^{t} zow hym ſelff and he ſeyd ye ſchuld have all lawfull favor I purpoſe to ryde to him y^{is} day ffor Wryttis of [2] diem clawſit extr'mū and I ſopoſe ze ſchall have a lett^{r} ſent from hym ſelff to zow as for the good of powlis it is ſafe j now and y^{is} day we have grant to have ye good owthe of [3] barmūſey w^{t} owthe avyſe of any mā ſawyng Worſet^{r} Plom' and I my ſelff and no body ſchall know of it but we thre my brod [4] tr' ſorer ſpekyth fayr but zet many avyſe me to put no truſt in hym ther is laboryd many menys to intytill ye kyng in his good. Sothe-well is eſchetor and he is rythe good and well diſpoſyd. My lord of [5] exſat^{r} cleymyth tytill in mȳ maſt^{r} plaſe w^{t} ye aporty-nancys in Sothewerk and veryly had purpoſyd to have entrid and his Conſayll wer w^{t} us and ſpak w^{t} Wurſet^{r} And me and now aft^{r}ward they have ſent no word that they wold meve my lord to ſue be meny's of ye lawe, &c. I have ſpoke w^{t} my lord of Cant^{r}bury and maſt^{r} jon Stokys and I fynd hem rythe will diſpoſyd bothe, &c. It' to morow ar ye nexſt day ze ſchall haue a nod^{r} lett^{r} For be that tyme we ſchall know mor than we do now my lord Chanceler wold y^{t} my maſt^{r} ſchuld be beryed wurchyply and C. mark almes done for hym but y^{is} day I ſchall holly know his enthent maſt^{r} jon Stokys hathe y^{e} ſame conſaythe and Almes gevyng Harry Fenyngley is not in this

[2] This was a Writ which iſſued out of Chancery to the Eſcheator of the County, upon the death of any of the King's tenants in Capite, to enquire by a Jury of what lands he died ſeized, and of what value, and who was next heir to him.

[3] An Abbey in Southwaak, where ſome of his Goods were depoſited.

own place, where ſoever they were, and lay them ſecretly where as ye thought beſt at your aſſignment, and till that he ſpeak with you himſelf, and he ſaid ye ſhould have all lawful favour.

I purpoſe to ride to him this day for Writs of [2] diem clauſit extremum, and I ſuppoſe ye ſhall have a letter ſent from him ſelf to you

As for the Goods of Paul's they are ſafe enough, and this day we have grant to have the Goods out of [3] Bermondſey without advice of any man ſaving Worceſter, Plomer, and I myſelf, and nobody ſhall know of it but we three.

My [4] Lord Treaſurer ſpeaketh fair, but yet many adviſe me to put no truſt in him; there is laboured many means to intitle the King in his Goods. Southwell is Eſcheator, and he is right good and well diſpoſed.

My Lord of [5] Exeter claimeth title in my maſter's place with the appurtenances in Southwark, and verily had purpoſed to have entered, and his counſel were with us and ſpake with Worceſter and me; and now afterwards they have ſent us word that they would move my Lord to ſue by means of the law, &c.

I have ſpoken with my Lord of Canterbury, and Maſter John Stokes, and I find them right well diſpoſed both, &c.

Item, to-morrow or the next day ye ſhall have another letter, for by that time we ſhall know more than we do now.

My Lord Chancellor would that my Maſter ſhould be buried worſhipfully, and one hundred marks (66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) alms done for him; but this day I ſhall wholly know his intent; Maſter John Stokes hath the ſame conceit and alms giving.

[4] James Butler, Earl of Wiltſhire and Ormond. Beheaded in 1461.
[5] Henry Holland, Duke of Exeter.

towne. Ner ye lord bechamp It' we have gethe mē of ye Sper'-tuall law w^t^ haldyn w^t^ us qwat caſſe ſome eu^r^ hap we haue maſt^r^ Robert Kenthe but in any wyſe haue all ye good ther to gedyr and tary for no lettyng. thow ze ſchuld do it be day a lythe opynly for it is mȳ lord Chanceler ffull in thenthe that ze ſchuld do ſo as For Wyllyam [6] Worcet^r^ he truſtythe veryly ze wold do for hym And for his avaylle in reſon and I dowthe nott and he may veryly and feythefully und^r^ſtand zow ſo diſpoſyd to hym ward ze ſchall fynd hym feythefull to zow in leke wyſſe I und^r^ſtand by hym he will neu^r^ haue od^r^ maſt^r^ butt his old maſt^r^ and to mȳ Conſaythe it were pete butt iff he ſchull ſtand in ſuche caſſe be mȳ maſt^r^ that he ſchuld nev^r^ nede Servyce cōſerying how mȳ maſt^r^ truſtyd hym and ye long zers that he hathe be w^t^ hym in and many ſchrew jornay For his ſake, &c. I wrythe zow no mor be cawſe ze ſchall a nod^r^ lett^r^ wr'tȳ to morow Wr'tȳ at lūdon ye xij day of novēbr in haſt

Be

[7] Willyam Paſton.

11 ½ by 10.
Paper Mark,
a Bull's Head and Star,
Pl. xxii. N° 15.

[6] For an Account of William Worceſter, ſee Letter XXV. vol. i. p. 104, note [1].

LET.

Harry Fenyngley is not in this town, nor the Lord Beauchamp.

Item, we have gotten men of the Spiritual Law with holden with us, what caſe ſoever happen, we have Maſter Robert Kent, but in any wiſe have all the Goods there together, and tarry for no letting, though ye ſhould do it by day-light openly, for it is my Lord Chancellor's full intent that ye ſhould do ſo.

As for William [6] Worceſter he truſteth verily ye would do for him and for his avail and in reaſon, and I doubt not, and *(if)* he may verily and faithfully underſtand you ſo diſpoſed to him ward, ye ſhall find him faithful to you; in likewiſe I underſtand by him he will never have other maſter but his old maſter, and to my conceit it were pity but if he ſhould ſtand in ſuch caſe by mine maſter that he ſhould never need ſervice, conſidering how my maſter truſted him, and the long years that he hath been with him in, and many ſhrewd journey for his ſake, &c.

I write you no more becauſe ye ſhall (*have*) another letter written to morrow. Written at London the 12th day of Nouember in haſte.

By

[7] WILLIAM PASTON.

London, Monday,
12 Nov. 1459. 38 H. VI.

[7] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 21.

LET-

LETTER LXXXVIII.

BE it reme'bred that foraſmoch as S' John Faſtolf late deceſed of grete Affeccon hath put me yn truſt to be one of hys executo's And ſeth hyt ys deſyryd me to know my diſpoſicon hereynne myne advyſe ys this that fyrſt an Jnventorie be made holye of hys godes and catell yn all places And thayt they be leyd yn ſure waard by your diſcrecons 'tille the executo's or the moſte part of tho that he put hys grete truſt uppon ſpeke wyth me and make declarac'on to me of hys laſt wille to the Accomplyſshm't whereoff I wolle be ſpeciall gode lord ferthymore as touchyng hys buryeng and month ys mynde kepyng that it be don worſhyplye accordyng to hys degree and for the helth of hys ſoule And that almeſſe be yeven yn maſs ſeyng and to pore peple to the ſome of a hu'dred mrcks tille that othyrwyſe we ſpeke to geder And I can agree ryzt well that hys ſ'unts haf theyr rewardes be tymes accordyng to hys wille to th'entent that they may be bett' diſpoſed and to pray for the wellfare of hys ſoule takyng avyſe of a lerned man yn ſpirituell lawe for no charge of admi'ſtracon tille the executo's com to ghedr or the moſte p't that hys truſt was moſt uppon to tak the adm'ſtracon.

W. Winton.

11 ½ by 4 ½.
Paper Mark,
Part of a Bull.
Pl. IX. N° 10.

William Wainfleet, Biſhop of Wincheſter, the firſt of Sir John Faſtolf's Executors, was at this time Lord Chancellor, to whom the others applied for his advice and directions concerning the execution of his Will. He here gives them fully, but at the ſame time adviſes them to apply to ſome one learned in the ſpiritual-law concerning the adminiſtration, &c.

LET-

LETTER LXXXVIII.

BE it remembered that for as much as Sir John Faſtolf, late deceaſed, of great affection, hath put me in truſt to be one of his Executors, and ſince it is deſired *(of)* me to know my diſpoſition herein, mine advice is thus, that firſt an Inventory be made wholly of his goods and catell *(chattells)* in all places, and that they be laid in ſure ward by your diſcretions, till the Executors, or the moſt part of thoſe that he put his great truſt upon, ſpeak with me, and make declaration to me of his laſt will, to the accompliſhment whereof I will be ſpecial good Lord.

Furthermore, as touching his burying and month's mind keeping, that it be done worſhiply *(worſhipfully)* according to his degree, and for the health of his ſoul, and that Alms be given in Maſſes ſaying, and to poor people, to the ſum of an hundred Marks (66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) till that otherwiſe we ſpeak together; and I can agree right well that his ſervants have their rewards betimes according to his Will, to the intent that they may be better diſpoſed, and to pray for the welfare of his ſoul; taking advice of a learned man in ſpiritual law, for no charge of adminiſtration till the Executors come together, or the moſt part, that his truſt was moſt upon, to take the adminiſtration.

WILLIAM WINTON.

November or December,
1459. 38 H. VI.

In times of popery the "Month's Mind" was a monthly ſolemnity in memory of the deceaſed, when prayers were offered, and Alms given for the health of his Soul, &c.

William Wainfleet was conſecrated Biſhop of Wincheſter in 1447, and continued there till his death, in 1486, juſt living to ſee the line of Lancaſter, (to which he had ever been a well-wiſher) reſtored to the crown in the perſon of Henry VII. He was a worthy prelate, and a man of great wiſdom and integrity. Pl. XIX. N° 22.

There is no addreſs to theſe directions.

LET-

LETTER LXXXIX.

To our Right truſty and intierly welbeloved Iohn Paſton Eſquyer.

RIGHT truſty and Right intierly welbeloued We grete you hertly wele And it is ſo as ye know wele your ſelf We haf and long tyme haf had the ſ[r]uice of Thomas Denyes by Contynuance Wherof we wend to haf had his attendaunce at our luſt And neu[r]theleſſe We haf ſo ſtrictly examynid his demenyng that we fele and pleynly conceyve that the love and effeccon which he hath to a gentilwoman not ferre from yow And which ye be p'vy to as we ſuppoſe cauſith hym alwey to deſire toward your Cuntre rath'r than toward ſuych ocupacon as is behovefull to us We write therfore to yow prayng yow hertly as ye love us that it like you to do that labo[r] at our inſtaunce be ſuych men as yo[r] wiſdom Can ſeme to meve that gentilwoman in our behalf for the wele of this mater undirtakyng for us that we wole ſhew our bounte to thaym bothe if it pleſe hir that this mater take effect ſo that be reaſon ſhe ſhall haf cauſe to take it in gree. And if the Comyng thider of our p[r]ſone ſelf ſhuld be to pleſir of hir we wole not leve our labo[r] in that Wherfore we p'y you that ye wole do yo[r] part heryn as ye wole we do for yow

We have here the private Letter of a great nobleman, wherein he intereſts himſelf in the welfare and happineſs of his domeſtics in a manner ſo very pleaſing, as to ſhew the goodneſs of his heart, and the kind attention which he paid to thoſe connected with him.

LETTER LXXXIX.

To our right truſty and entirely well-beloved John Paſton, Eſq.

RIGHT truſty and right entirely well-beloved, we greet you heartily well, and it is ſo as ye know well yourſelf, we have, and long time have had the ſervice of Thomas Denyes, by continuance whereof we wend (*thought*) to have had his attendance at our luſt (*pleaſure*,) and nevertheleſs we have ſo ſtraitly examined his demeaning that we feel and plainly conceive that the love and affection which he hath to a gentlewoman not far from you, and which ye be privy to, as we ſuppoſe, cauſeth him alway to deſire towards your country, rather than towards ſuch occupation as is behoveful to us. We write therefore to you, praying you heartily as ye love us, that it like you to do that labour at our inſtance by ſuch mean, as your wiſdom can ſeem, to move that gentlewoman in our behalf for the weal of this matter, undertaking for us, that we will ſhew our bounty to them both, if it pleaſe her that this matter take effect, ſo that by reaſon ſhe ſhall have cauſe to take it in gree (*to be ſatisfied*;) and if the coming thither of our perſon ſelf ſhould be to (*the*) pleaſure of her, we will not leave our labour in that; wherefore we pray you that ye will do your part herein, as ye will we do for you

John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, an adherent to the Houſe of Lancaſter, was taken and beheaded in 1461, when he was nearly 55 years old. He married Elizabeth, the daughter and heir of Sir John Howard, by which marriage he became poſſeſſor of Eſtates in Norfolk. Autograph. Pl. I. N° 8.

in tyme Comyng And that ye ſe us in haſt The holy trinite kepe yow Wretyn at Weuenho the xvij day of May.

The Erle of Oxenford.

Oxenford.

11 ½ by 6 ½.

LETTER XC.

To oure truſty and welbeloved
John Paſton Squier.

By the King.

TRUSTY and welbeloved for aſmuche as oure right truſty and welbeloved the Lord Moleyns is by oure ſp'al Deſire and comaundement waitting upon us And now for divers conſideracions moeving us We purpoſe to ſende hym in to certaine places for to execute oure cōmaundement for the whiche he ne may be attendant to be in oure Countees of Northfolk and Suffolk at the Time of oure Cōmiſſioners ſitting upon oure Cōmiſſion of oier det'miner w'in the ſame oure Countees We therfore deſire and praye you that conſidering his attendance upon us and that he muſt applie hym to execute oure cōmaun-

The matters here commanded by the King to be reſpited, were probably ſome diſputes relative to the manor of Greſham, a moiety of which had been purchaſed by Sir William Paſton the Judge, and the other moiety had belonged to Sir William Molyns, the preſent Lord Molyns's wife's anceſtor.

As far as concerned his Lordſhip, perhaps a reſpite during his abſence on the King's affairs might be neceſſary, but to extend that to his Tenants and Servants ſeems an hardſhip upon the perſon who was Plaintiff and thought himſelf aggrieved.

dem't

in time coming, and that ye ſee us in haſte. The Holy Trinity keep you. Written at Wevenhoe, the 17th day of May.

The Earl of Oxford.

OXENFORD.

Wevenhoe, in Eſſex,
17th of May,
before 1460. 38 H. VI.

LETTER XC.

To our truſty and well-beloved John Paſton, Eſquire.

By the King.

TRUSTY and well-beloved, for as much as our right truſty and well-beloved the Lord Moleyns is by our ſpecial deſire and commandment waiting upon us, and now for divers conſiderations moving us, We purpoſe to ſend him into certain places for to execute our commandments, for the which he ne may (*cannot*) be attendant to be in our Counties of Norfolk and Suffolk at the time of our Commiſſioners ſitting upon our Commiſſion of Oyer (*and*) Determiner within the ſame our Counties. We therefore deſire and pray you, that conſidering his attendance upon us, and that he muſt apply him to execute

The Letter however is couched in the civilieſt language poſſible, and ſealed with the King's privy Seal on red Wax, having the Royal Arms of France and England quarterly, ſurmounted by a Royal Coronet, and encompaſſed with a Collar of SS. Pl. XXIII. N° 2.

For the King's Autograph, ſee Pl. I. N° 1.

dem't ye wol reſpite as for any thing attempting ayenſt hym as for any matiers that ye have to do or ſeye ayenſt hym or any oth'r of his Serv'nts Welwillers or tenaunts by cauſe of hym unto tyme he ſhal mowe be preſent to anſuere there unto Wherein ye ſhall miniſtere unto us cauſe of pleaſur^re^. and ov^r^. that deſerve of us right good thanke. Yeven under oure ſignet at oure palois of Weſtmynſt'r the xviij day of Septemb'r.

12 by 8 ½.

Paper Mark,
A Bunch of Grapes.
Pl. ix. N° 14.

Seal,
The Royal Arms of England.
Pl. xxiii. N° 2.

LETTER XCI.

To my right truſty and welbeloved frende Iohn Paſton Squier.

RIGHT truſty and welbeloved frend I grete you hertly wel And wul ye wite that Wotton is ev^r^. creyng and callyng upon me to write un to you for hiſe londe Wherfore at ye rev^r^ence of good conſideryng ye Sympleneſſe of hem all I pray you that ye put hem at a c^r^ten and lete hem all yat they aught

to

our Commandment ye will reſpite as for any thing attempting againſt him, as for any matters that ye have to do, or ſay againſt him, or any other of his Servants, welwillers, or Tenants, becauſe of him, unto time he ſhall mowe be (*be able to be*) preſent to anſwer thereunto; wherein ye ſhall miniſter unto us cauſe of pleaſure, and over that, deſerve of us right good thanks. Given under our Signet at our palace of Weſtminſter, the 18th day of September.

Weſtminſter,
18th of September,
before 1460. 39 H. VI.
See Letter XLIX.
Vol. I. p. 193.

LETTER XCI.

To my right truſty and well-beloved Friend, John Paſton, Eſq.

RIGHT truſty and well-beloved Friend, I greet you heartily well, and will ye weet that Wotton is ever crying and calling upon me to write unto you for his land; wherefore at the reverence of God conſidering the ſimpleneſs of them all, I pray you that ye put them at a certain (*certainty*,) and let them all

to have of right for yaire creyng cauſe men to thinke ye do hem grete wrong which j wote wel ye wold be ſory to do oure lord have you in hiſe govrnance Writen at Midelton the xvj day of Octob'r.

Youre frende,

Scales.

11 by 4 ½.

I have given this Letter as ſomewhat perhaps helping us to form a character of J. Paſton.

Thomas Lord Scales was a nobleman of great worth and loyalty; he was ſlain in 1460.

LETTER XCIJ.

To my Maſtir Iohn
Paſton Eſquier.

RIGHT Worſhippful Sr. I recomaunde me unto you And pleaſe it you to witte of oure newe tydinges here as this day com writing both to my [1] lorde and to my lady from london that there be certein lettres directed to my lorde from my lady his [2] moder and diuerſe other lordes for to haue [3] Danyell in his favor a geyne and as it is ſuppoſed by the meanes of the Duc of Somerſette for he hath ben right Convrſaunte wt hym all

[1] John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, married Ellenor, daughter of William Bourchier, Earl of Ewe, in Normandy.

[2] Catharine, daughter of Ralph, Earl of Weſtmoreland, and widow of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk.

this

all that they ought to have of right, for their crying cauſe men to think ye do them great wrong, which I wote (*know*) well ye would be ſorry to do.

Our Lord have you in his governance. Written at Middleton, the 16th day of October.

Your Friend,

SCALES.

Middleton,
16th of October,
before 1460. 39 H. VI.

For a further account of him, ſee Letter XXXIII. Vol. I. p. 136. Note [3], &c. Autograph. Pl. I. N° 12.

LETTER XCII.

To my Maſter John Paſton, Eſq.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me unto you, and pleaſe it you to weet of our new tidings here; as this day came writing both to my [1] Lord and to my Lady from London that there be certain Letters directed to my Lord from my Lady his [2] Mother, and divers other Lords for to have [3] Daniel in his favour again, and as it is ſuppoſed by the means of the Duke of Somerſet, for he hath been right converſant with him all this

[3] Thomas Daniel, Eſq. was Conſtable of Riſing-Caſtle, and married Margaret, ſiſter of John Howard, afterwards Duke of Norfolk.

He is ſaid to have been attainted in the beginning of the reign of Edward IV. but afterwards reſtored and taken into favour.

this quart^{r} of this yere. And alſo thei y^{t} ſente this writing ſayn playnly that the lorde Skales is gode lorde to hym and y^{t} he hath p'myſed hym to make Sr Thomas Tudenh'm Heydon and hym accorded and other mē in the cuntre and that he ſhall be ſuffred to entre in to Brayſton and kepe it to yentente y^{t} the cuntre ſhall thinke and my lorde alſo y^{t} he hathe grete favo^{r} amonge the lordes of the Counſell and cauſe men to fere hym ye more whethir it be thus or non I can not ſay neu^{r} the leſſe me thinketh ye ſhall ſone knowe if Mounford will agree y^{t} he ſhall entre in to Brayſton and if y^{t} be trewe all the remen'nt ſhall ſeme the more likly I pray you brenne this lett^{r}. when ye haue redde it. My lorde and my lady ſayn ye ſhall be right welcome and ye will ſe theym this Criſemaſſe I reporte me to yor wiſdom. And god haue you in his keping Writon at Framlyngh'm the xviij day of Decembr.

Ric. Southwell.[a]

11 ½ by 6.

[a] Richard Southwell, Eſq. married Amy, daughter and co-heir of Sir Edmund Wichingham, of Wood-Riſing, Eſq. and ſo became poſſeſſor of that Eſtate. Autograph. Pl. xx. N° 27.

quarter of this year. And alſo they that ſent this writing ſay plainly that the Lord Scales is good Lord to him, and that he hath promiſed him to make Sir Thomas Todenham, Heydon, and him accorded, and other men in the country, and that he ſhall be ſuffered to enter into Brayſton, and keep it to the entent that the country ſhall think, and my Lord alſo, that he hath great favour amongſt the Lords of the Council, and cauſe men to fear him the more. Whether it be thus or no I cannot ſay, nevertheleſs me thinketh ye ſhall ſoon know if Mounford will agree that he ſhall enter into Brayſton, and if that be true, all the remenant ſhall ſeem the more likely.

I pray you brenne *(burn)* this Letter when ye have read it. My Lord and my Lady ſay ye ſhall be right welcome, and (*if*) ye will ſee them this Chriſtmas; I report me to your wiſdom, and God have you in his keeping. Written at Framlingham, the 18th day of December.

4 RICHARD SOUTHWELL.

Framlingham,
18th of December,
Before 1460. 39 H. VI.

LETTER XCIII.

To my ryght wyrſhypfull
Mayſter Iohn Paſton be
thys letter delyv^r^yd in haſte.

RYGHT wyrſhypfull huſbond I recomaund me to you pleaſe it you to wyte that the cauſe that I wrote to you non er than I dyde after the Seſſyons was by cauſe that Yelv^r^ton held ſeſſyons at [1] Dyrh'm and [2] Walſyngh'm the next wyke after the Aſſyſes and to haue knowlech what labo^r^ that was made ther and to have ſend you werd therof ther was grete labo^r^s made by the Bayly of Coſhay and other for to have endytyd your men both at Dyrh'm and at Walſyngh'm but I p'vayd a mene that her p'poſe was lettyd at thos ij tymes Hugh a Fen ys in Flegge Ric Call ſpake w^t^ hym thys wyke and he ſayd to Ric that he and hys wyff wold be w^t^ me here thys wyke toward a place of hys that he hath p'chaſyd of Godehreds yf he com J ſhall make hym gode Chyre for it ys told me of dyv's folks that haue ſpoke w^t^ hym ſythen he Com in to Norff as thay fele by hys ſayng that he awyth you ryght gode wyle. It' as for my Comyng

The date of this Letter cannot be exactly fixed, though I believe it was written in 1460, or, if not then, it muſt have been written early in the reign of Edward IV. as I find there was a preſentation to the Church of Drayton, both in 1460 and 1461, but Sir Thomas Hakon was not the perſon preſented on either of the vacancies.

[1] Eaſt Dereham, a market town, ſituated nearly in the centre of the county of Norfolk, we here find, in the fifteenth century, a place of ſufficient conſequence to have an adjournment of the General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace from Norwich held in it.

It has been ſince that period twice deſtroyed by fire, once on the 1ſt of July 1581, and again on the 3d of the ſame month, in 1679.

It is now, in the eighteenth century, a pleaſant, handſome, and well-built town, inhabited by ſeveral reſpectable families, and furniſhed with many accommodations for genteel

LETTER XCIII.

To my right worſhipful Maſter John Paſton, be this Letter delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I recommend me to you, pleaſe it you to weet that the cauſe that I wrote to you, none ere than I did after the Seſſions was, becauſe that Yelverton held the Seſſions at [1] Dereham and [2] Walſingham the next week after the Aſſizes, and to have knowledge what labour that was made there, and to have ſent you word thereof; there was great labour made by the Bailiff of Coſſey, and other, for to have endicted your men both at Dereham and at Walſingham, but I played a mean that their purpoſe was letted at thoſe two times.

Hugh a Fenn is in Flegg, Richard Call ſpake with him this week, and he ſaid to Richard that he and his wife would be with me here this week, towards a place of his that he hath purchaſed of Godered; if he come I ſhall make him good cheer, for it is told me of divers folks that have ſpoken with him, ſithen *(ſince)* he came into Norfolk, as they feel by his ſaying, that he oweth you right good will.

genteel life. What it may be three centuries hence time only can diſcover; it has however the beſt wiſhes for its proſperity from the Editor of theſe Letters, who has ſpent amongſt its inhabitants, and the neighbouring gentry, many pleaſant and happy years.

[2] Walſingham was at this time remarkable for the Chapel and Image of our Lady, to which pilgrimages were undertaken from every quarter, and riches poured in from the ſuperſtitious benefactions of well-meaning votaries.

The general diſſolution put a period to its importance, and the fine Abbey, now in ruins, makes venerable the gardens of Henry Lee Warner, Eſq. and affords ample ſcope for ſerious meditations.

Comyng to you yf it pleaſe you that I Come y hope I ſhull p'vey ſo for al thyngs or I com that it ſhull be ſayff y nogh by the grace of God tyll I com a yen but at the reverens of God yf ye may p'vey a mene that ye may Com hom your ſylf for that ſhall be moſt p'fortabell to you for men cut large thongs here of other mens lether I ſhull wryte to you a yen as haſtely as I may God haue you in hys kypyng Wryten in haſte at Hayleſdon the Sonday next after the aſſumpſyon of our lady.

It' my Coſyn Elyſabeth Clere ys at Ormeſby and your Moder p'poſyth to be at her place at Caſter thys wyke for y^e [3] peſtylens ys ſo feruent in Norwych that thay ther no lenger abyde ther ſo god help me thynkyth by my moder that ſhe wold ryght fayn that ye dyde well and that ye myght ſpyde ryght well in your mater and me thynkyth by my Coſyn Clere that ſhe wold fayn haue youre gode wyll and that ſhe hath ſworyn ryght faythfully to me that ther ſhall no defaute be founde in her nor noght hath be yf the trogh myght be underſtoud as ſhe hopyth it ſhull be herafter ſhe ſayth ther ys no man a lyff that ſhe hath put her truſte in ſo moch as ſhe hath doon in you ſhe ſayth ſhe wote well ſuch langage as hath be reportyd to you of her other wyſe then ſhe hath deſ^rvyd Cauſyth you to be other wyſe to her then ye ſhuld be ſhe had to me thys langage wypyng and told me of dyv's other thyngs the whych ye ſhall haue Knowlych of herafter.

As for the hygh Shyrf he demenyd hym ryght well her to me and he ſayd to me as for the Replevyns he wold aſke counſeyll of lernyd men what he mygt doo therin and as largely as he

[3] I do not find any notice in hiſtory that any remarkable ſickneſs raged at this time, either in Norwich, or in the kingdom at large.

mygt

Item, as for my coming to you, if it pleaſe you that I come, I hope I ſhall purvey ſo for all things ere I come, that it ſhall be ſafe enough by the grace of God till I come again; but at the reverence of God, if ye purvey a mean that ye may come home yourſelf, for that ſhall be moſt profitable to you, for "men cut large thongs here off other men's leather." I ſhall write to you again as haſtily as I may, God have you in his keeping. Written in haſte at Helleſdon, the Sunday next after the Aſſumption of our Lady.

Item, my Couſin Elizabeth Clere is at Ormſby, and your Mother purpoſeth to be at her place at Caiſter this week, for the [3] Peſtilence is ſo fervent in Norwich that they there no longer abide there, ſo God help; me thinketh by my Mother, that ſhe would right fain that ye did well, and that ye might ſpeed right well in your matters; and me thinketh by my Couſin Clere that ſhe would fain have your good will, and that ſhe hath ſworn right faithfully to me, that there ſhall no default be found in her, nor nought hath been, if the truth might be underſtood, as ſhe hopeth it ſhall be hereafter; ſhe ſaith there is no man alive that ſhe hath put her truſt in, ſo much as ſhe hath done in you, ſhe ſaith ſhe wot well ſuch language as hath been reported to you of her, otherwiſe than ſhe hath deſerved, cauſeth you to be otherwiſe to her than ye ſhould be; ſhe had to me this language weeping, and told me of divers other things, the which ye ſhall have knowledge of hereafter.

As for the High Sheriff he demeaned him right well here to me, and he ſaid to me, as for the Replevins he would aſk counſel of learned men, what he might do therein, and as largely

as

mygt do ther in or in any other mater touchyng you ſavyng hymſylf harmlys he wold doo for you and for yours that he mygt do.

It'. I have do layd in the p'ſentacyon of Drayton and have p'ſentyd S' Thom's Hakon p'ſon of Felthorp the whych is hold ryght a gode man and wel dyſpoſyd and the Duck of Suff hath layd in a nother and ther ſhall be take an inquiſicyon ther uppon and Mr. Styvenys your a voked therin. M' John Eſtgade ys paſſyd to God on thurſday laſt paſſyd whos ſawle God aſſoyle wherof in gode feyth I am ryght ſory for I fynd hym ryght faythfull to you They deyy ryght ſore in Norwych.

John Rus ſayth the p'fets that hath be take of the man' of Caiſter ſyn S' John [4] Faſtolf deyd hath be take by S' Thomas Howys and Jenney.

By yours,

[5] M. P.

12 by 12.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

I mervayll that ye had no tythyngs from me at that tyme that your letter was wryten for I ſend you a letter by Chytockys ſon that ys prenteys in London and the ſeyd letter was of the demenyng at the Aſſyes at Norwych and of divers other maters. I p'y you ſend me word yf ye have it as for the Replevyns Ric Calle ſayth he hath ſend you a awnſwere of hēm and alſo the copys of them.

[4] He died in November 1459.

LET.

as he might do therein, or in any other matter touching you, ſaving himſelf harmleſs, he would do for you and for yours that he might do.

Item, I have do layd in (*cauſed to be laid in*) the preſentation of Drayton, and have preſented Sir Thomas Hakon, parſon of Felthorp, the which is held right a good man, and well diſpoſed; and the Duke of Suffolk hath laid in another, and there ſhall be taken an inquiſition thereupon, and Maſter Stephen is your advocate therein.

Maſter John Eſtgate is paſſed to God on Thurſday laſt paſt, whoſe Soul God aſſoil! whereof in good faith I am right ſorry, for I find him right faithful to you; they die right ſore in Norwich.

John Ruſs ſaith the profits that hath been taken of the Manor of Caiſter, ſince Sir J. [4] Faſtolf died hath been taken by Sir Thomas Howys and Jenney.

By yours,

[5] MARGARET PASTON.

Helleſdon,
Sunday after the
Aſſumption of our Lady,
17th of Auguſt, 1460. 38 H. VI.

I marvel that ye had no tidings from me at that time that your Letter was written, for I ſent you a Letter by Chittock's ſon, that is prentice in London, and the ſaid Letter was of the demeaning at the Aſſizes at Norwich, and of divers other matters.

I pray you ſend me word if ye have it; as for the Replevins Richard Calle ſaith he hath ſent you an anſwer of them, and alſo the copies of them.

[5] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

LETTER XCIII.

To the Right Revrent and Worſhippfull Iohn Paſton in haſte.

RIGHT Revrent and Worſhippfull Sr And my right truſti and welbelovid Coſin I recomaund me unto you praiyng you hertily to remembr me unto my maſtr Radclyff ſo that by yor gode meanes I ſhall mowe have his gode maſtrſhipp the whiche I have effectuelly to my power ſewed fore this iij yer and nevr deſrved the contrye to my knowlegge by my trouth and if it can or may be founden that I have I will obeye me and offr me to Abyde the rewle of you and my Coſin yor brothir &c. Alſo my lord of [1] Cauntrbury maſtr Waltier [2] Blakette will help forthe if nede be And as to the Remen'nt of the lordes if the caſe requir that ye may underſtand by yor. Wyſdum thei be diſpleaſed with me as I truſt to God thei be not I beſeche you to Remembr that I have aforetyme ben accuſed unto the King's highneſſe and the Quenes for owyng my pore gode will and ſrvice unto my lord of York and oyr &c. Wherof I ſuppoſe that Thomas Bagh'm is remembred that I brought hym oones from my lady a purs and v m'rc therin and to Sr. Phelipp Wenteworth an oyr and a Cs therin for their gode will and adviſe therin to my

This Letter appears to have been written towards the latter end of the reign of Henry VI. and refers to ſome former tranſactions when he appears to have been a retainer to the Duke of York, the exact date cannot be aſcertained.

[1] Thomas Bourchier.

lady

LETTER XCIV.

To the right reverend and worſhipful John Paſton, in haſte.

RIGHT reverend and worſhipful Sir, and my right truſty and well-beloved Couſin, I recommend me unto you, praying you heartily to remember me unto my Maſter Radcliff, ſo that by your good means I ſhall and may have his good maſterſhip, the which I have effectually to my power ſued for this three years, and never deſerved the contrary to my knowledge, by my truth, and if it can or may be found that I have, I will obey (*ſubmit*) me, and offer me to abide the rule of you and my Couſin your Brother, &c.

Alſo my Lord of [1] Canterbury, (*and*) Maſter Walter [2] Blacket will help forth, if need be, and as to the remanent of the Lords, if the caſe require that ye may underſtand by your wiſdom they be diſpleaſed with me, as I truſt to God they be not, I beſeech you to remember that I have afore time been accuſed unto the King's Highneſs and the Queen's for owing my poor good will and ſervice unto my Lord of York and others, &c. whereof I ſuppoſe that Thomas Bagham is remembered that I brought him once from my Lady a purſe and five Marks (3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) therein, and to Sir Philip Wentworth another, and an hundred Shillings therein for their good will, and advice therein to my Lady and

[2] This family came originally from the biſhoprick of Durham, and a deſcendant of it was created a Baronet in 1673.

lady and all us that wer appelled for that cauſe notwithſtanding: the king wrote to my lord by the meanes of the Duc of [3] Somr-ſette that we ſhuld be avoyded from hym &c. And within this ij yer we wer in like wiſe laborᵉd ageyns to the Quene ſo that ſhe wrote to my [4] lord to avoyde us ſaiyng that the King and ſhe coude nor myght in no wiſe be aſſured of hym and my lady as long as we wer aboute hym wᵗ much oyr thing as may be ſufficiently p'ved by the Quenes Writing under herr own ſignett and ſigne manuell the whiche I ſhewd to my lord of Caunterbury and oyr lordes &c. I prey you haue me excuſed that I encombr you wᵗ thees matiers at this tyme for me thinketh ye ſhuld will and deſire me to do any thing to yor honr and pleas' at any tyme Wherto I ſhal be redy and welwilled to my power by the grace of God who haue you evr in his keping and all yores Writon at Norwiche on ſeint Feithes day in haſte.

Yores,

[5] Ric.
Suthwell.

11 ½ by 6 ½.

Paper Mark,
A Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

[3] . . . . . Beaufort, Duke of Somerſet.

[4] John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, in whoſe houſehold R. Southwell had an appointment.

LET-

all us that were appealed for that caſe, notwithſtanding the King wrote to my Lord by the means of the [3] Duke of Somerſet, that we ſhould be avoided from him, &c. And within this two years we were in like wiſe laboured againſt to the Queen, ſo that ſhe wrote to my [4] Lord to avoid us, ſaying that the King and ſhe could nor might in no wiſe be aſſured of him and my Lady as long as we were about him, with much other thing, as may be ſufficiently proved by the Queen's writing under her own ſignet and ſign manual, the which I ſhewed to my Lord of Canterbury and other Lords, &c.

I pray you have me excuſed that I encumber you with theſe matters at this time, for me thinketh ye ſhould will and deſire me to do any thing to your honour and pleaſure at any time, whereto I ſhall be ready and well-willed ever to my power by the grace of God, who have you ever in his keeping, and all yours.

Written at Norwich, on Saint Faith's day, in haſte.

Yours,

[5] RICHARD SOUTHWELL.

Norwich, 6th of October,
About 1460. 39 H. VI.

[5] Richard Southwell married Amy, daughter and co-heir of Sir Edmund Wichingham, of Wood-Riſing, in Norfolk, and then made that his place of reſidence. His mother was of the family of Berry, and by that mean he became related to the Paſtons.
Autograph. Pl. xx. N° 27.

LETTER XCII.

To my Wurſhipfull
Maiſter John Paſton
Squier.

MI Wurſhipfull Maiſter I recomaunde me to you And I thanke you that it pleſith you to take ſeche labor for me as ye doo my ſrv'nt tolde me ye deſired to knowe what my lord of Norff' ſeid to me whan I ſpake of you And he ſeid in aſmeche as howard myght not be he wolde write a lre to the Underſhreve that the Shire ſhulde have fre eleccon ſoo that Sr Thom's [1] Todenh'm wer not nor none that was toward the Duc of [2] Suff' he ſeid he knewe ye wer nevr to hym ward ye may ſende to the underſhreve and ſee my lord lre Howard was as wode as a wilde bullok god ſende hym ſeche Wurſhipp as he deſervith it is a evill precedent for the ſhire that a ſtraunge man ſhulde be choſyn and no Wurſhipp to my lord off Yorke nor to my lord of Norff' to write for hym For yf the Ientilmen of the Shire will ſuffre ſech inconvenyens in good feithe the ſhire ſhall not be called of ſeche

Though this Letter ſhews us the influence of the great men in the Election of the Members of the Houſe of Commons, yet it appears from it that in this caſe the Duke of Norfolk's power was limited, as he could not bring in his friend and relation Sir John Howard, for I conclude he was the perſon mentioned in the Letter, and his being called a "ſtraunge man" moſt probably aroſe from his not having been reſident in the County, as he was for a long time occupied in the wars of France. He was High Sheriff of the County of Norfolk and Suffolk in the firſt year of Edward IV. and by him was afterward

LETTER XCV.

To my worſhipful Maſter John Paſton, Eſquire.

MY worſhipful Maſter, I recommend me to you, and I thank you that it pleaſeth you to take ſuch labour for me as ye do, my ſervant told me ye deſired to know what my Lord of Norfolk ſaid to me when I ſpake of you, and he ſaid in as much as Howard might not be, he would write a Letter to the Under Sheriff, that the Shire ſhould have free Election, ſo that Sir Thomas [1] Todenham were not, nor none that was toward the Duke of [2] Suffolk; he ſaid he knew ye were never to him ward; the Mayor ſent to the Under Sheriff, and ſaw my Lord's Letter; Howard was as wode *(mad)* as a wild Bullock; God ſend him ſuch worſhip as he deſerveth; it is an evil precedent for the Shire that a ſtrange man ſhould be choſen, and no worſhip to my Lord of York, nor to my Lord of Norfolk to write for him; for if the Gentlemen of the Shire will ſuffer ſuch inconvenience, in

afterward created Lord Howard. His Sovereign Richard III. granted him the title of Duke of Norfolk, as being deſcended from the heir-female of the Mowbrays, and with his royal maſter, he fell in the battle of Boſworth-field in 1485.

[1] Sir Thomas Todenham, a ſteady Lancaſtrian, was beheaded in 1461, upon a ſuſpicion of having received Letters from Margaret, Queen of Henry VI. when he was about 62 years of age.

[2] John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk.

good

ſeche [3] Wurſhipp as it hathe be Wreten atte Jntewode this Wednesday next after ſceint John in haſt.

Your ſ'vūt,

[4] John Jenney.

11 ½ by 4 ½.

Paper Mark,
A Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

[3] It appears that Norfolk was in this age a County of great worſhip and conſequence, owing to the riches, power, and anceſtry of its inhabitants. May it ever continue ſo!

LETTER XCVI.

To my Mayſt'
jon Paſtone
Eſqwyer be this
lett' p'ſentid.

IH's Maria, &c.

RYTE Rev'ent Sire aft' du r'c'me'dacyon we ſey i' this cu'tre that Heydon is for Barkſchir i' the Comon hows And the [1] lady of Suffolk hath ſent up hyr [2] ſone and hiſe wyf to my lord of York to aſke grace for a ſchir've the next yer Stapilton Boleyn or Tyrel q' abſit God ſend zow Pony'g WP. W. Rokewode or Arblaſt' ze haf myche to done jhu ſpede zow ze haf many good preyers what of the Covent cyte And cu'tre

[1] Alice, Ducheſs of Suffolk, Widow of William, Duke of Suffolk, beheaded at Sea, in 1450.

god

good faith the Shire ſhall not be called of ſuch [1] worſhip as it hath been. Written at Intwood, the Wedneſday next after Saint John, in haſte.

Your Servant,

[4] JOHN JENNEY.

Intwood,
Wedneſday
before 1460. 38 H. VI.

[4] John Jenney married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Thomas Wetherby, the rich Alderman of Norwich, by whom he became poſſeſſed of the Intwood Eſtate. He died in 1497. Autograph. Pl. XIX. N° 18.

LETTER XCVI.

To my Maſter John Paſton, Eſq. be this Letter preſented.

Jeſu, Maria, &c.

RIGHT reverend Sir, after due recommendation; we ſay in this country that Heydon is for Berkſhire in the Commons Houſe, and the [1] Lady of Suffolk hath ſent up her [2] Son and his Wife, to my Lord of York, to aſk grace for a Sheriff the next year, Stapilton, Boleyn, or Tyrel, qui abſit. God ſend you Poynings, W. Paſton, W. Rokewood, or Arblaſter, ye have much to do; Jeſu ſpeed you; ye have many good prayers, what of the Convent, City and Country; God ſave our good

[2] John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, married Elizabeth, Daughter of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York.

Lords

god ſafe o' good lords Warwik alle hiſe brey' Saliſbury &c. fro al fals covetyſe and favo' of extorcyon as they will fle uttyr ſchame And co'fuſyon God ſave hem and preſerve fro treſon and poyſon lete he' be war her of for the pite of god for yf owt Come to my lord Warwik but good far weel ze far weel j And al o' fr'nds for be the weye of my ſowle this lond wer uttirly on done as god forbede her enmyes boſty' w^t. good to come to her favo' but god defende hem and zeve hem grace to knowe her fr'nds fro her enmyes and to cheriſch and preferr her fr'nds and leſſe the myte of alle her e'myes thorw owt the ſchiris of the lond And my good lord Warwik w^t. my lord hiſe broy' Cha'n-celer And my lord her fadyr woldy' oppoſyn as dede danyel Forteſku Aliſa'ndir Hody Docto' Aleyn, Heydon And thorp of the [3] writy'g made be hem at covy'tr' p'leme't. they ſchuld an-ſwer wers tha' [4] ſ'b cino or ſub privo And this g'naly wold j ſey at Powlys cros &c. And j ſchuld Come ther' &c. It is v'ifyed of he' 1° *Jer'mie* 8° v'e me'daciū op'at' e' ſtil' me'dax ſcribaru' &c. And thi'k of two vers of zo' Sawter Sc'bant' h' i' g'n'a^oe alt'a. h^s. ſ. p'liame'ti & p'p^s q' cr'abit' laudab^t d'n'm &c. Delea't' ecia' t'les p'v'ſi ſc'ptor's de lib° vive' ciu' & cu' iuſt's no' ſc'bant' & no' pl'ra ſz vos v'ros & v'ra c'ſervet ihs g'c'oſe i' proſp'is & g' co'ſius dirigat i' age'd's Ex Norwico Fe' 4'. nūc'o feſtina'te.

[3] This relates to the Bill of Attainder mentioned in the preceding Letter.

And

Lords Warwick, all his brethren, Saliſbury, &c. from all falſe covetiſe *(covetouſneſs)* and favour of extortion, as they will flee utter ſhame and confuſion; God ſave them and preſerve (*them*) from treaſon and poiſon, let them beware thereof, for the pity of God; for if ought come to my Lord Warwick but good, farewell ye, farewell I, and all your friends; for by the way of my ſoul, this land were utterly undone, as God forbid their Enemies boaſting with good to come to their favour, but God defend them, and give them grace to know their Friends from their Enemies, and to cheriſh and prefer their Friends, and leſſe (*leſſen*) the might of all their Enemies throughout the Shires of the land, and (*of thoſe who*) my good Lord Warwick with my Lord his Brother (*the*) Chancellor, and my Lord their Father would oppoſe, as did Daniel, Forteſcu, Alexander, Hody, Doctor Aleyn, Heydon and Thorpe; of the [3] writing made by them at Coventry Parliament, they ſhould anſwer worſe than [4] ſub cino or ſub privo, (*or prino*) and this generally would I ſay at Paul's Croſs, &c. and (*if*) I ſhould come there, &c.

It is verified of them (*Jeremiah* viii. 8.) "vere mendacium operatus eſt ſtilus mendax Scribarum, &c." And think of two verſes of your Pſalter "Scribantur hæc in generatione alterâ (hujus, ſcilicet, parliamenti) et populus qui creabitur laudabit Deum." (*Pſal.* ci. cii. v. 18.) "Deleantur etiam tales perverſi ſcriptores de libro viventium & cum juſtis non ſcribantur" (*Pſalm* lxviii. lxix. v. 28.) Et non plura, ſed vos, veſtros & veſtra conſervet Jeſus gracioſe in proſperis & gracioſius dirigat in agendis. Ex Norwico feria 4ta, nuntio feſtinante.

[4] Q.? The meaning of this expreſſion. Autograph. Pl. xx. N° 25.

And j pr'y zow for godds ſake to be good mayſt' to jo' lyſter &c. And j pr'y zow thi'k i' this p'leme't of the text of holy ſc'pt'e q' cunqz fec'it c'tra lege' dei & c't' lege' r'g's judi^{m} fiet de eo l i' c'de'pnac'oz ſ'bſtan^{c} ei^{s} vel i' carc'em l i' exiliu' l i' morte' p^{o} eſdre vij^{o} & p'ti 2° eſdre 8°.

8 ½ by 5 ¾.
Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

LETTER XCVII.

To the rite worſchipful
Eſqwyr jon Paſton
be this preſentid.

Ihs Maria joh' Baptiſta Franciſc' cu' ſ'cis o'ibz Aſſiſta't' vobis v'ris in laboribus Amen.

WORSCHIPFUL And moſt i'terely bitruſtid mayſt' And ſpecyal Frend Aft' Dute of al lowly r'c'me'dacyon ze ſchal c'ceyve that j c'tefie zow for tr'wthe j Comonyd late w^{t}. a worſchipful and a wele namyd a good thrifty man of this cu'tre which told me i' ſecrete wyſe that he herd Docto' Aleyn ſeyn aft' the p'leme't of [r]Covintre that yf the lords that tyme Reyny'g

After the diſperſion of the Duke of York's army near Ludlow, the government of courſe came into the hands of the King's party, and conſequently the Friends of that party were then in employment, and ſo continued till the following Summer, when the

And I pray you for God's ſake to be good Maſter to John Lyſter, &c. And I pray you think in this parliament of the text of Holy Scripture "quicunque fecerit contra legem Dei, & contra legem Regis, judicium fiet de eo, vel in condemnationem ſubſtantiæ ejus, vel in carcerem, vel in exilium, vel in mortem," 1mo Eſdræ vii. v. 26, & p. 2° Eſdræ. 8vo.

JOHN BRACKLEY.

Norwich, Thurſday
1460. 39 H. VI.

LETTER XCVII.

To the right worſhipful Eſquire, John Paſton, be this preſented.

Jeſus, Maria, Johannes Baptiſta, Franciſcus, cum Sanctis omnibus aſſiſtant vobis veſtris in laboribus. Amen.

WORSHIPFUL and moſt entirely betruſted Maſter and ſpecial Friend, after duty of all lowly recommendation, ye ſhall conceive, that I certify you for truth; I communed late with a worſhipful and a well named, a good thrifty man of this country, which told me in ſecret wiſe, that he heard Doctor Aleyn ſay after the Parliament of [1] Coventry, that if the

the battle of Northampton proved fatal to his cauſe, Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, John Talbot, Earl of Shrewſbury, and John Viſcount Beaumont, with others his chief Counſellors and Commanders being then ſlain.

[1] Held in December 1459.

Reyny'g And now diſceſſid myte haf ſtandy' i' gov'nans that Forteſku the juſtice Docto' Mor'ton jon Heydon Thorp and he ſchuld be made for evir And yf it turny'd to c'trary wyſe it ſchuld growe to her fynal c'fuſyon and uttyr deſtruccyon For why the p'lyows Writi'g And the myſchevous inditi'g was ymagini'd co'trivi'd and utt'ly co'cludid by her moſt vengeable labo' &c. And her moſt malicyows [2] c'ſpiracye ayens the i'nocent lords knytis gentilis and comonys And alle her jſſu p'petuel &c. and as j wrote laſt to zo' mayſt'ſchip the text of *jer'mie c°* 8° *v^e* me'daciu' op'at' e' ſtil' me'dax ſe'baru' it folwith i' the ſame place co'fuſi ſu't ſapie'tes p'territi & capti ſu't v'bu' d'ni p'ieceru't & ſap'ia n'lla e' i' eis. p'p'ia dabo mulier's eoru' ext'is. Agros eoru' heredibz alie'is &c. j wolde my' lord Cha'nceler And my ſpecyal lord Erl utia'z Duke of Wa'rwyk w^r al her tr'we affinyte ſchuld reme'bre this text which is holy ſc'pt'e &c. As j wold do by for the ky'g And hiſe lords and at the [3] Cros for the p'ncipil of this text hath be c'tynued in dayly exp'iens ſithe bifor' the p'leme't of [4] Bury But the co'cluſyon of this text came nev' zet to exp'iens And that is gr't rewthe. De D'noru' fideliu' atqz co'ni' morte ſat's i'iurioſa m'ltiformit' lame'tanda d'ſc'nendo p' ſi'gula ex pauc's ſcit d'ſc'c'o v'ra p'pender' pl'ra &c. & ubi ego

[2] This relates to the Attainders paſſed againſt the Duke of York, the Earl of March, &c. &c. whereby their Eſtates were confiſcated, and they and their poſterity declared incapable of inheritance to the fourth generation. For the liſt of thoſe then attainted, ſee Vol. I. Letter XLV. Note at the end.

[3] St. Paul's Croſs, where public Sermons were preached.

[4] The Parliament aſſembled at Bury St. Edmund's, in Suffolk, in February 1446, 25 H. VI. where the Duke of Glouceſter was murdered.

This Letter abounds with Quotations from the Holy Scriptures, in the Writer's opinion pertinent to the diſorders and viciſſitudes of the times.

ſel'i'

Lords that time reigning, and now deceaſed might have ſtandyn *(continued)* in governance, that Forteſcu the Juſtice, Doctor Morton, John Heydon, Thorp and he, ſhould be made for ever; and if it turned to contrary wiſe, it ſhould grow to their final confuſion and utter deſtruction; for why, the perilous writing, and the miſchievous indicting was imagined, contrived, and utterly concluded by their moſt vengeable labour, &c. and their moſt malicious [2] conſpiracy againſt the innocent Lords, Knights, Gentles, and Commons, and all their iſſue perpetual, &c. And as I wrote laſt to your maſterſhip the text of Jeremiah, Chap. viii. "verē mendacium operatus eſt ſtilus mendax Scribarum," it followeth in the ſame place, "Confuſi ſunt ſapientes, perterriti & capti ſunt; verbum Domini projecerunt, & ſapientia nulla eſt in eis; propterea dabo mulieres eorum exteris; agros eorum hæredibus alienis, &c. *(Jeremiah* viii. 8, 9, 10.*)*

I would my Lord Chancellor, and my ſpecial Lord Earl, utinam, Duke of Warwick, with all their true affinity ſhould remember this text which is Holy Scripture, &c. as I would do before the King and his Lords, and at the [3] Croſs; for the principle of this text hath been continued in daily experience ſith (*ſince*) before the Parliament of [4] Bury; but the concluſion of this text came never yet to experience, and that is great ruth "De Dominorum fidelium atque Communium morte ſatis injurioſa multiformiter lamentanda, diſcernendo per ſingula, ex paucis ſcit diſcretio veſtra

The latter part of it is in the familiar Latin of the age. In a Note at the end of the ſecond Letter in the firſt Volume of this work, I gave my opinion that the Character (there explained and referred to) ſignified Jeſu Maria; theſe Letters of Dr. Brackley confirm that opinion, as all his Letters have a beginning in words at length, where theſe very words are uſed with others following them: this very Letter beginning "*Jeſus, Maria, Johannes Baptiſta, &c. &c.*"

Autograph. Pl. xx. N° 25.

perpen-

ſel' i' e'ce pauli pala' p'dicavi hu'c tex^{m} *No' c'das i'imico tuo i' et'nu' ecc'* 12° & q'da' h^{s} r'gni doctor & ep's. uti'az no' i'dign^{s} aſſeruit eu'de' tex^{m} Sc'pt'e ſacr' no' i'corp'atu' q' doctor Nich's de li'ra Sup' eu'de' tex^{m} dicit Sapie'ti no' i'ſipi^{ti} ſcribo Pl'ra habeo v're r'v'en^{e} ſc'ber' q^{e} ja' no' expedit calamo co'me'dar'. Uxor joh'is Berney de Redh'm ia i'fra triduu' pep'it filiu' &c. Mag'ra mea ux' v'ra ſana e' cu' filiis v'ris & filiabz. & to' fa'ilia c't'^{s} noſt' i't' cet'os h't ſtatu' v'r'm ſp'aliſſi'e r'c'me'datu' i' miſſis ac or'o'ibz c'ſuet's qz ſuffragiis & cu' ia' ſit's i' p'lia^{to} p'nti p' milite el'co. Uti vob' c'ſulo v'b' Pauli Ap'li. labora ſic' bon^{s} miles ihu X^{t}. & alibi job ute'do v'b' milicia ſup' t'ra' e' vita ho'is *job* i° viril'r g' agite & confortet' cor v'r'm q' ſp'at's i' d'no i' p° Q^{s} i'q' ſapie's ſperav^{t} i' d'no & c'fus' e' & p'ma'ſit i' ma'dat's d'i & der'lict' e' q. d. null'. Ex Norwico Fe' v' p' f'm ſ'c'i luce enva'geliſte [5].

11 ½ by 8 ½.

Paper Mark
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

5 The Editor hopes for the Reader's indulgence if he have, in ſome inſtances, miſtaken the ſenſe intended by the Latin contractions in Dr. Brackley's Letters.

He conſulted a learned and ingenious friend, who likewiſe took ſome pains to decypher them; ſome, however, the Editor fears have eluded both this Gentleman's and his own endeavours to explain them.

perpendere plura, &c. & ubi ego (ſcilicet in eccleſia Pauli) palam predicavi hunc textum "Non credas inimico tuo in æternum" (*Eccle.* xii. 10, &c.) & quidam hujus regni Doctor & Epiſcopus, utinam non indignus, aſſeruit eundem textum Scripturæ Sacræ non incorporatum, quare Doctor Nicholas de Lira ſuper eundem textum dicit, &c. &c. Sapienti non inſipienti ſcribo, plura habeo veſtræ reverentiæ ſcribere, quæ jam non expedit calamo commendare. Uxor Johannis Berney de Reedham jam infra triduum peperit filium, &c. Magiſtra mea uxor veſtra ſana eſt cum filiis veſtris & filiabus & totâ familiâ. Cognatus noſter inter cæteros habet ſtatum veſtrum ſpecialiſſime recommendatum in miſſis ac orationibus, conſuetiſque ſuffragiis; & cum jam ſitis in parliamento præſenti pro milite electo, uti vobis conſulo verbis Pauli Apoſtoli, "Labora ſicut bonus Miles Jeſu Chriſti." (2 *Tim.* ii. 3.) & alibi, Job utendo verbis, "Militia ſuper terram eſt vita hominis," (*Job* vii. 1.) "Viriliter igitur agite, & confortetur cor veſtrum, qui ſperatis in Domino, (*Pſal.* xxx. xxxi. 24.) Quis, inquit ſapiens, ſperavit in Domino & confuſus eſt, & permanſit in mandatis Domini, & derelictus eſt? q. d. nullus. Ex Norwico feria quinta poſt feſtum Lucæ Evangeliſtæ [5].

JOHN BRACKLEY.

Norwich,
Thurſday
23d October, 1460,
39 H. 6.

NUM-

NUMBER XCVIII.

* *An ancient Whitſunday Sermon, preached by Frier Brackley (whoſe Hand it is) at the Friers Minors Church, in Norwich.*

FRENDS this holy tyme as owr mod' holy chirch maketh menſion the holy goſt came from hevyn and lighted in the diſciples of Criſt inflamyng them w^{t} co'nyng and ſtrenghyng them w^{t} g'ce and be cauſe the doctrine and p'chyng of them ſhuld go thurghought all the werd furſt thei wer to be enformed and taught co'ny'g and to be ſtrenth w^{t} awdacide and g'ce and than to be endewed and yovyn all man' of langags y^{t} thei myght p'chyn to all man' of nac'ones So that tho nac'ones y^{t} thei p'ched to myght und'ſtond them and ev'y nac'ones his owyn tonge and ſo thees Appoſtilles aff' that thei wern enſpired w^{t} the holy goſt wher So ev' thei p'ched wer y' nev' ſo many nac'o'es p'ſent ich nac'on thought y^{t} thei ſpokyn in ther owyn langage etn. ill'd loq^{o}bant' varijs lĩguis ap'li Frends iij thyngs be neceſſary in p'chy'g to hym y^{t} ſhall p'chyn thurgh ye werd as the Appoſtell dede y^{t} is to ſey co'nyng boldneſſe and langags if thei had had co'nyg and no' audacite but have fered to have p'ched it ſhuld litill a p'fited as we have examplles dayly at Cambrige

We have in this Sermon of Dr. Brackley, a curious ſpecimen of pulpit eloquence and divinity in the reign of Henry VI. commemorating the deſcent of the Holy Ghoſt upon the Apoſtles, &c. under the viſible appearance of fiery tongues.

We are next informed of the three requiſites for a Preacher of the Goſpel, and of the divine aſſiſtance which the Apoſtles received, to enable them to preach with effect.

He then ſets before his audience the vanity of earthly joys and the immenſity of heavenly ones, both by precept and example.

ex

NUMBER XCVIII.

* *An ancient Whitſunday Sermon, preached by Friar Brackley (whoſe Hand it is) at the Friers Minors Church in Norwich.*

FRIENDS, this Holy time as our mother holy Church maketh mention, the Holy Ghoſt came from Heaven, and lighted in the Diſciples of Chriſt, inflaming them with cunning and ſtrengthening them with grace. And becauſe the doctrine and preaching of them ſhould go throughout all the werd (*world*); firſt they were to be informed and taught cunning (*ſkill* or *knowledge*,) and to be ſtrengthened with audacity (*confidence*) and grace, and then to be endowed (*with*) and given all manner of languages, that they might preach to all manner of nations, ſo that thoſe nations, that they preached to, might underſtand them, and every nation his own tongue. And ſo theſe Apoſtles after that they were inſpired with the Holy Ghoſt, whereſoever they preached, were there never ſo many nations preſent, each nation thought that they ſpoke in their own language, etenim illud loquebantur variis linguis Apoſtoli.

Friends, three things be neceſſary in preaching to him that ſhall preach through the world as the Apoſtles did, that is to ſay, cunning, boldneſs, and languages; if they had had cunning and none audacity, but have feared to have preached, it ſhould little a (*have*) profited, as we have examples daily at Cambridge, ex-

His texts are choſen with propriety, and his examples, as adduced, have their effect.

There are in two or three places a few quotations which, from the ſmallneſs of the hand, and the badneſs of the writing, I have been obliged to give up as illegible.

As the exact year in which this ſermon was preached cannot be aſcertained, I have placed it to follow the laſt Letter, written by the Author of it.

* This is written on the back of the paper containing the Original Sermon.

ex' de cli'co q^{s} ſtuduit ſermonem &c. ? And if thei have bothyn co'nyng and audacite and have no' eloquenſye ner copio^{s}neſſe of langage ſo y^{t} he p'che y^{t} his Audiens is moſt excerciſed in y^{t} thei may und'ſtand hym ell' it p'fiteth not y'for thes holy Appoſtill be for thei ſhuld p'chyn furſt y^{ei} wer to be c'f'med and ſtrenghed o^{r} lord ſtrenghed them be und' nemyng enf'myg and helpyng culpando ut i' ev'ngel' recu'bentibz &c. he ſtrenghed them w^{t} his help and g'ce whan he brethed i' them ſeyng Accipite ſp'm ſc'm & q°r' rēnſ'it's p'cc'a rem^{t}tn't' eis & q°r' retnts retenta ſūt &c he ſtrenghed them Alſo be his doctrine whan he ſeid petite & accipietis ſi q'd petierit's pre'z in noi'e meo dab^{t} vob. how y^{t} ye ſhuld p'yn to god and aſkyn j taught you on eſtern day y'for ye ſhall p'y to god be good werkyng right full leby'ing and in good deds p'ſev'yng Frends ye owe for to Aſk of god y^{t} yo' joy may ben a full joy and p'fight we may nev' have a full joy in this werd wher as ev' among folwyth hevyneſſe A man joyth ſūtyme in gold and ſylv' and in gret ſubſtaunce of erdly gods in bewte of women but y^{is} joy is not p'fyght but y^{is} ioy is not ſtabill but it is mutabill as a ſhadow for he y^{t} y^{is} ioyth in the bewte of his wyffe it may fortune to morwyn he ſhall folwyn her to chirch up on a bere but if ye wull knowyn what is a full and a wery joy truly forgeveneſſe of ſynne and ev'leſtyng bliſſe wher as is nev' ſikeneſſe hung' ner thurſt ner no man' of diſſeas but all welth joy and p'ſp'ite &c. Ther be iij ma' of

joys

empli gratia, de Clerico quis ſtuduit ſermonem, &c. And if they have both cunning and audacity, and have none eloquency, nor copiouſneſs of language, ſo that he preach that (*which*) his Audience is moſt exerciſed in, that they underſtand him, elſe it profiteth not.

Therefore theſe holy Apoſtles before they ſhould preach, firſt they were to be confirmed and ſtrengthened. Our Lord ſtrengthened them by under nemyng, informing, and helping (*culpando q?*) ut in Evangelium recumbentibus, &c.

He ſtrengthened them with his help and grace when he breathed in them, ſaying "Accipite ſpiritum ſanctum, & quorum remiſeritis peccata, remittuntur eis, & quorum retinueritis retenta ſunt, &c." (*John* xxix. v. 22, 23.) he ſtrengthened them alſo by his doctrine, when he ſaid "Petite & accipietis; ſi quid petieritis patrem in nomine meo, dabit vobis." (*John* xvi. v. 23, 24.) How that ye ſhould pray to God and aſk, I taught you on Eaſter-day; therefore ye ſhall pray God by good working, right full labouring, and in good deeds perſevering.

Friends, ye ought for to aſk of God that your joy may be a full joy and perfect; we may never have a full joy in this world, whereas ever among followeth heavineſs. A man joyeth ſometimes in gold and ſilver, and in great ſubſtance of earthly goods, in beauty of women, but this joy is not perfect, but this joy is not ſtable, but it is mutable as a ſhadow; for he that thus joyeth in the beauty of his wife, it may fortune to-morrow he ſhall follow her to church upon a bier; but if ye will know what is a full and a very joy, truly forgiveneſs of ſin, and everlaſting bliſs, whereas is never ſickneſs, hunger, nor thirſt, nor no manner of diſeaſe, but all wealth, joy, and proſperity, &c. There be three manner of joys, the one void, another half full, the third is

joys y' on void a noy' half full y' thred is a full joy the furſt is plente of werdly gods ye ij^de is goſtly g'ce the iij^de is ev'leſtyng bliſſe The furſt joy y^t is affluens of temp'all gods is called a veyn joy for if a man wer ſet at a bord w^t delicate mets and drynks and he ſey a Cawdron boylly'g a forn hym w^t pykke and bronſtan in the which he ſhuld be throwyn naked As ſone as he had dyned for he ſhuld joy mych in his delic'oſe mets it ſhuld be but a veyn joy right ſo doth ye joy of a covetouſe man if he ſey what peyn his ſowle ſhuld ſuffre in helle for ye myſkepyn and getyn of his good he ſhuld not joy in his treſo' ut in libro decalogor' quida' ho' dives &c. Semiplenu' gaudiu' eſt qu' q's in p'ſenti gaudz & tu'c cogitans de futur's dolet ut i' q°d'm libro greco quida' rex grecie &c. her ye may ſe but half a ioy how ſhuld ioy in this werd if he remembred hym of the peynes of the tod' werd No' gl'ie't' fortes in fortitudi'e ſua nec ſapiens in ſapi'a ſua nec dives i' divitijs ſuis de q'bz di^r. q' c'fidu't in multitudi'e divicijar' ſuar' q'i oves i' inferno poſiti ſu't. Qui gl'iat' in d'no gl'ieti'

y^rfor lete us joy in hope of ev^rleſtȳg joy and blis

Gaudete q' noīa vra ſc'pta ſūt in celo ut gaudiū vrū ſit plenū

a full joy is in hevyn

Et in hoc app^ret q^d magnū gaudiū eſt ī celo qū ibi ē gaudiū. q^d occ'ls nō vid^t ñ auris audi^t & in cor hoīs nō aſcend^t q' De^s pp^ravit dilegentibz & id' fr'es variis līguis loquens ut gaudiū v'rūm ſit plenū v. h'eatis gaudiū ſempīt^r.

6 ½ by 12.

Paper Mark Wheels, &c. Pl. xxii. N° 10.

a full joy; the firſt is plenty of worldly goods; the ſecond is ghoſtly grace; the third is everlaſting bliſs. The firſt joy, that is affluence of temporal goods, is called a vain joy, for if a man were ſet at a board with delicate meats and drinks, and he ſaw a cauldron boiling afore him with pykke (*pitch*) and brimſtone, in the which he ſhould be thrown naked, as ſoon as he had dined; for *(if)* he ſhould joy much in his delicoſe (*delicious*) meats, it ſhould be but a vain joy.

Right ſo doth the joy of a covetous man, if he ſee what pain his ſoul ſhall ſuffer in hell, for the miſkeeping and getting of his goods, he ſhould not joy in his treaſure, ut in libro Decalogorum "Quidam homo dives, &c."

Semiplenum gaudium eſt quando quis in preſenti gaudet & tunc cogitans de futuris dolet; ut in quodam libro Græco, &c. "Quidam Rex Græciæ, &c." here ye may ſee but half a joy; who ſhould joy in this world, if he remembered him of the pains of the other world? "Non glorietur fortis in fortitudine ſuâ, nec ſapiens in ſapientiâ ſuâ, nec dives in divitiis ſuis;" (*Jer.* ix. 23.) de quibus dicitur, qui confidunt in multitudine divitiarum ſuarum, quaſi oves in inferno poſiti ſunt, (*Pſalm* xlviii. xlix. 6, 14.) "Qui gloriantur, in Domino glorientur." (*Jer.* ix. 24.) therefore let us joy in hope of everlaſting joy and bliſs.

Gaudete quia nomina veſtra ſcripta ſunt in cælo, ut gaudium veſtrum ſit plenum. (*Luc.* x. 20.)

A full joy is in heaven.

Et in hoc apparet, quod magnum gaudium eſt in cælo, quoniam ibi eſt gaudium quod "oculos non vidit, nec auris audivit, et in cor hominis non aſcendit, quæ Deus preparavit diligentibus," (1 *Cor.* ii. 9.) et ideo Fratres, variis linguis loquens, (*precor*) ut gaudium veſtrum ſit plenum, vel, habeatis gaudium ſempiternum.

LET-

LETTER XCIX.

To the ryght Worchepfull
Sere Mayſter Iohn Stokes.

RYGHT wᵗſhypfull Sere I recomaund me to yow and for aſmyche as it is informyd me yat it was appoynted yat alle the executors of the wᵗſhepfull knyght Sere Iohn Faſtolf whos Soule god aſoyle ſhuld be at london as on Monday next Comyng Of wheche executors J am namyd for on as I ondyrſtond Wherfore in as myche as ye be ordenary. And on of ye ſame executors I prey yow tendre my laboure wᵗoute my Comyng be youre dyſcrecon myght be more pᵖfyt to the dede. For I Conſeyue it ſhuld be but charge to ye dede and lytell avayleable Conſyderyug yat John Paſton Squyere and Thom's Howys pᵗſon of Blofeeld ſchall Come up at yis time wheche yᵉ pᵗſones aboue all other yat ye ſeyd Sere John Faſtolf put in hys moſt ſengulere loue and truſt And wold they ſhuld haue yᵉ kepyng and dyſpoſicon of hys goods as wele in hys lyue as after hys deſeas to dyſpoſe for ye well of hys Soule And that non other namyd hys executors but only they tweyn ſhuld haue ony kepyng or dyſpoſyng of ony part of heſe goods duryng ther lyues And that alle other namyd executors ſhuld ſupporte them and

We ſee here that the Abbot of Langley deſires to be excuſed attending in London as one of the Executors of Sir John Faſtolf; we learn moreover that Sir John himſelf deſired particularly that the whole execution of his Will ſhould reſt with J. Paſton and Thomas Howys. Maſter John Stokes was a Doctor of Laws, a Civilian, and an officer of the Biſhop's Court.

Nicholas occurs Abbot of Langley in 1428 and in 1463; he muſt therefore have been at this time an old man. Pl. xx. N° 32.

yeue

LETTER XCIX.

To the right worſhipful Sir, Maſter John Stokes.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me to you, and for as much as it is informed me, that it was appointed that all the Executors of the worſhipful Knight Sir John Faſtolf, whoſe Soul God aſſoil! ſhould be at London as on Monday next coming, of which Executors I am named for one as I underſtand; wherefore in as much as ye be Ordinary, and one of the ſame Executors, I pray you tender my labour without my coming by your diſcretion might be more profit to the dead, for I conceive it ſhould be but charge to the dead and little available conſidering that John Paſton, Eſquire, and Thomas Howys, parſon of Blofield, ſhall come up at this time, which were the perſons above all others that the ſaid Sir John Faſtolf put in his moſt ſingular love and truſt, and would they ſhould have the keeping and diſpoſition of his goods, as well in his life as after his deceaſe, to diſpoſe for the weal of his Soul; and that none other named his executors, but only they twain ſhould have any keeping or diſpoſing of any part of his goods during their lives; and that all other named executors ſhould ſupport them, and give them to

This Abbey was founded by Sir Robert Fitz Roger, Helke or de Clavering, in 1198. 10 R. I. It was an Abbey of conſiderable poſſeſſions, and became the burial-place of a great number of perſons of rank and fortune.

The Seal of the Abbey faſtens the Letter; it is an oval one on red wax, but though imperfect, I have delineated it. Pl. xxiii. N° 5.

the

geue them to y^e^ ſeyd John Paſton and Thom's Howys here good avyſe in performyng of hys deſyre in that behalve. Wherfor yat it lekyth yow in ony thyng ye deſyre me to do in thys cauſe or matere to geue yowre feyth and credence to y^e^ ſeyd John Paſton and Thom's Howys. And ſo deſyred me y^e^ ſeyd knyght feythefully to do that knowyth god Whom I be ſeke preſerue yow from alle aduerſyte Wretyn in ye Abbey of langeley the viij day of ye monyth of May the yeere of oure lord m^ll^ cccc. lx.

Youre Preeſt,

Abbot of langeley.

11 ½ by 6 ½.
Paper Mark,
Pillar and Croſs.
Pl. xxi. N° 7.

Imperfect Seal of the Abbey.
The Virgin ſitting in a Tabernacle, &c.
Pl. xxiii. N° 5.

LETTER C.

To my right Worchipful
Maiſter Iohn Paſton Sqwyer.

RIGHT worchipful Maiſter I recomaunde me un to yow deſiryng to knowe of youre welfare and p'ſperyte wheche ihu maynteyne and encreeſe to his pleſer after youre hertys deſyre thankyng yow eu' of youre good maiſterſhip to me ſhewed at alle tymes withoute deſerte on my behalve. p'yng yow and

5 hirtely

the ſaid John Paſton and Thomas Howys their good advice in performing of his deſire in that behalf; wherefore that it liketh you in any thing ye deſire me to do in this cauſe or matter to give your faith and credence to the ſaid John Paſton and Thomas Howys, and ſo deſired me the ſaid Knight faithfully to do, that knoweth God, whom I beſeech preſerve you from all adverſity. Written in the Abbey of Langley, the 8th day of the month of May, the year of our Lord 1460.

Your Prieſt,

The ABBOT of Langley.

Abbey of Langley,
Thurſday, 8th of May,
1460. 38 H. VI.

LETTER C.

To my right worſhipful Maſter, John Paſton, Eſquire.

RIGHT worſhipful Maſter, I recommend me unto you, deſiring to know of your welfare and proſperity, which Jeſu maintain and increaſe to his pleaſure after your heart's deſire, thanking you ever of your good maſterſhip to me ſhewed at all times without deſert on my behalf, praying you and hear-

hirtely beſechyng of youre goode contynuance pleaſe it yowre maiſterſhip for as moche as it moved on to ye my good maiſters ye Counſell of ye duche of lancaſtr y^t they be weelwillyng to make laboure on to my Sov'eyn Lady ye Qween at youre good inſtaunce for certeyn tymber toward my dortour at Bromholm in wheche myn ſpecyall deſyre is to haue viij p'ncypall beemys euych on in length xj zerds I am not expeert in makyng of any ſupplicacon beſechyng youre maiſterſhip to take it uppon you to do it make after youre avyce alegged all pou'te as youre worchipfull diſcrecon can moche bett^r than I can enforme and J remitte all to youre wyſdam eu^r beſechyng you to Calle y^is matyer to youre remembraunce No more at y^is tyme but ye holy T'nite mote haue yow in his gou^runce and ſende you longe lyf to endure to his pleſer Wreten the xiiij^e day of Octobr.

Youre Preeſt and chapeleyn,

John P'our of Bromholm.

12 ½ by 4 ½.

We have here an application from the Prior of Bromholm to the Queen, for a gift of ſome Timber from off the Lands belonging to the Duchy of Lancaſter, of which there are many in the County of Norfolk. The petitioner ſeems modeſt in his requeſt, aſking only for eight beams, each to be 33 feet long, from which circumſtance the ſize of the dormitory can be nearly aſcertained.

LET.

tily beſeeching of your good continuance, pleaſe it your maſterſhip for as much as it *(is)* moved unto the my good maſters the Counſel of the Duchy of Lancaſter, that they be well willing to make labour unto my Sovereign Lady the Queen of your good inſtance for certain timber toward my Dortour *(Dormitory)* at Bromholm, in which mine eſpecial deſire is to have eight principal beams, every one in length eleven yards. I am not expert in making of any ſupplication, beſeeching your maſterſhip to take it upon you to do it make after your advice, alledged all poverty as your worſhipful diſcretion can much better than I can inform, and I remit all to your wiſdom ever beſeeching you to call this matter to your remembrance. No more at this time, but the Holy Trinity mote (*pleaſe*) have you in his governance, and ſend you long life to endure to his pleaſure. Written the 14th day of October.

Your Prieſt and Chaplain,

JOHN, Prior of BROMHOLM.

14th of October,
1460, 39 H. VI.
or 1465, 5 E. IV.

John Titleſhale was Prior of Bromholm from 1460 for about twenty years. This Letter muſt have been written therefore either on the 14th of October 1460, or on the ſame day in 1465, as Edward IV. married in that year, and J. Paſton died in May 1466.

If it was written in the former year, the requeſt muſt have been to Queen Margaret; if in the latter, to Elizabeth the Queen of Edward IV.

Autograph. Pl. xx. N° 33.

LETTER CJ.

Amicabil magro nro
Iohi Paſton Armiger[r]

FUL rev[r]end and worſhipful after all dewe rev[r]ence and re-cōmendacion yo[r] pore p'ſte beſecheth humble it pleſe yo[r] good mayſtirſhip to underſtande be yis ſimple bylle yat on ye Friday next after ye feſte of ye conu[r]ſion of ſeynt poule laſte paſte I was at yo[r] place at Caſtre to a tolde yow what anſwer I hadde of Sir Thom' Howis p[r] Son of Blofeld and in as moche as ye wer not at hoom I tolde it to my maſtras yo[r] wyfe And god yanke her of her jentilnes ſhe made me grete cher. And mor ou[r] a vyſed me to ſende yow a bille yer of to lundon. yis was his anſwer whan I had talked to hym as I cowde in lyke wyſe as ye au'ted me to do. he anſwered a geyn in yeſe wordes. nere is my kyrtyl but nerre is my ſmok. And yis was his menyng yat ye ſchulde be mor ner us and tender to us yan he and yat ye ſchulde rather owe us good wyl yan he and yat we ſchulde labour rather to yowr mayſtirſhip yan to hym and alſo yat good yat he had to diſpoſe he had be ſette it and of paſſel he tolde me he had de-lyu[r]ed ye abbot of [1] langele foureſcor. li. Wher of as he ſeyd to me ye grutched and wer in man[r] diſpleſed. not withſtandyng ye ſeyd a geyn to hym ye ſhulde geue as moche. And he ſeyd to me ye named ye places wher. And yerfor he avyſed me to

In thoſe days few perſons died without bequeathing ſomething to the Church, to be diſtributed at the pleaſure of their Executors. This truſt ſeems to have been repoſed in J. Paſton by ſeveral, though it appears he was ſlow in diſpoſing of the money, as his father had been dead now above fifteen years, and a part of his good ſo bequeathed remained ſtill in his hands; as appears by this letter.

labo[r]

LETTER CI.

Amicabili magiſtro noſtro Johanni Paſton Armigero.

FULL reverend and worſhipful, after all due reverence and recommendation, your poor Prieſt beſeecheth humbly it pleaſe your good Maſterſhip to underſtand by this ſimple bill, that on the Friday next after the feaſt of the Converſion of Saint Paul laſt paſt, I was at your place at Caiſter to have told you what anſwer I had of Sir Thomas Howes, parſon of Blofield, and in as much as ye were not at home, I told it to my miſtreſs your wife, and God thank her of her gentleneſs, ſhe made me great cheer; and moreover adviſed me to ſend you a bill thereof to London. This was his anſwer, when I had talked to him as I could, in like wiſe as ye adverted me to do; he anſwered again in theſe words, "Near is my Kirtle but nearer is my ſmock;" and this was his meaning, that ye ſhould be more near us, and tender to us than he, and that ye ſhould rather owe us good will than he, and that we ſhould labour rather to your maſterſhip than to him; And alſo that Good that he had to diſpoſe he had beſet it, and of parcell, he told me, he had delivered the Abbot of [1] Langley fourſcore pounds, whereof as he ſaid to me, ye grudged and were in manner diſpleaſed, notwithſtanding ye ſaid again to him, ye ſhould do as much; And he ſaid to me ye named the places where; and therefore he adviſed me to labour effectually to

[1] The Abbey of Langley in Norfolk was founded by Sir Robert de Clavering, in 1198, 9, R. I. And about the time here mentioned Nicholas —— was Abbot.

your

labor effectualy to yr good mayſtirſhip for ye mych helpe no wele for he ſeyd ye had moche good of ye dede to diſpoſe what of yor. fader god bliſſe yat ſowle what of Berney and what now of his good mayſtr Faſtolfe. And as for Sir John Faſtolfe on hooſe ſovle jhu have mrcy he ſeyd to me ye had of his good fovr fovr and fovr mor yan he in yeſe ſame termes wt owte ony ſūme. And after all oder talkyngs he tolde me he ſhulde be wt yow at lundon haſtyly and yat he wolde ſey good worde to yow to releue our poor place. Sir I beſeche bethe not diſpleſed for truly and j woſte to haue yor heuy mayſtrſhip y'for I had leur it had bene on yoght. And is this yat whan Sir Thom' Howes and ye be ſaunne at lundon We myght be ſo in yor good g'ce yat o place myght be broder to langele for yat ſhulde glade us mor yan ye cōmiſſion yat ye byſshop of [2] Norwich ſente us on Thruſday laſte paſte to gader the dymes for yat is a ſhrewde labor for us a grete coſte and a ſhrewe juparde Our mor yat hy and myghty celeſtial p'nce p'ſerue yow body and ſowle and ſende yow coūforte of ye holy gooſt wele to prforme all yor hertis deſir in all yor materes to his pleſaunce and yor wurſhip and ſolace to alle yor welle wyllers. Wretyn at Bromholm on ye Saturday next after ye feſte of ye Conurſion of Seynt Povle laſte paſte.

ffrom yor preſte and bedeman

[3] John P'our of Bromholm.

11¾ by 7.
Paper Mark,
A Ring.
Pl. xxi. N° 4.

[2] Walter Hart became Biſhop of Norwich in 1446, and died in 1472.

[3] This Priory was founded by William de Glanville, in the reign of Henry I. and in the year 1113. John Titteſhale was at this time Prior. Autograph Pl. xx. N° 33.

your good maſterſhip, for ye might help us well; for he ſaid ye had much Good of the dead to diſpoſe, what of your father, God bleſs that ſoul, what of Berney, and what now of his good maſter Faſtolf. And as for Sir John Faſtolf, on whoſe ſoul Jeſu have mercy! he ſaid to me, ye had of his good four, four, and four more than he, in theſe ſame terms without any ſum.

And after all other talkings he told me he ſhould be with you at London haſtily, and that he would ſay good word to you to relieve our poor place; Sir I beſeech (*you*) be not diſpleaſed, for truly and *(if)* I wiſt to have your heavy maſterſhip therefore, I had lever (*rather*) it had been unthought. And is this, that when Sir Thomas Howes and ye be ſoon at London we might be ſo in your good grace, that our place might be brother to Langley, for that ſhould glad us more than the commiſſion that the Biſhop of [2] Norwich ſent us on Thurſday laſt paſt to gather the Dymes (*Tenths*) for that is a ſhrewd labour for us, a great coſt and a ſhrewd jeopardy.

Evermore that high and mighty celeſtial Prince preſerve you body and ſoul, and ſend you comfort of the Holy Ghoſt well to perform all your heart's deſire in all your matters to his pleaſaunce *(pleaſure)* and your worſhip, and ſolace to all your well-willers. Written at Bromholm on the Saturday next after the feaſt of the Converſion of Saint Paul laſt paſt.

From your Prieſt and Beadſman,

[3] JOHN, Prior of BROMHOLM.

Bromholm,
Saturday 31 January,
1469. 39 H. VI.

LET-

LETTER CIJ.

To my Ryght worchippfull
hoſbond Iohn Paſton be this
delyv'yd ī haſt

RIGHT worchipfull hoſbond I recōmand me to yow p'yīg yow to wete that I have reccyved yor lett^{r} this day y^{t} ye ſent me be Yelvertonys man As for yor [1] ſignette J fond itt uppon yor bord the ſame day y^{t} ye went hens and j ſend it yow be Richard Heberd bryng^{r} herof As for yor eronds y^{t} ye wrete to me fore Ric' Charlēs is owte abough yor eronds abowte gr'ſh'm and for his awyn maters alſo and I ſuppoſe he komyth not hom tyll it be teſday or Weddeneſday next komyg and alſſone as he komyth hom he ſhall go abowte yor eronds y^{t} ye wrete to me fore I ſent yow a letter wreten on teſday laſt paſt whiche as I ſuppoſe Roger Ormeſby delyv'yd yow I toke it to Alſon Pertryche She rod w^{t} Clyppyſbys wyff to london I p'y yow if ye

[1] In former times a perſon's Signet or Seal was of the utmoſt conſequence, and we find by this Letter that J. Paſton had made immediate enquiries after his, as ſoon as he miſſed it.

I cannot in this place forbear mentioning the promiſcuous and unauthoriſed uſe of arms, which, to the diſgrace of the Laws of Honour, now ſo generally prevails, ſince it has been ſuppoſed that the College of Arms is not empowered to compel payment by attaching the Body or Goods of the offender, for any Fine ſet by the Court of Honour upon thoſe Perſons who have aſſumed Arms, and bear them without a proper Grant, or deſcent from the original Grantee.

When County Viſitations were permitted, and the King of the Province of Arms and Heralds went their Progreſſes, Diſtinctions of family Deſcents, and family Arms were recorded and kept up, and the Heirs of Gentlemen's Families for a ſmall fee were enabled to join themſelves to their parent ſtock, by attending with their vouchers at the time and place appointed, of which they were informed by a public Summons from the Sheriff of their reſpective Counties.

have

LETTER CII.

To my right worſhipful Huſband John Paſton be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I recommend me to you, praying you to weet that I have received your letter this day that ye ſent me by Yelverton's man. As for your [1] Signet, I found it upon your board the ſame day that ye went hence, and I ſend it you by Richard Heberd, bringer hereof; as for your errands that ye wrote to me for, Richard Charles is out about your errands about Greſham, and for his own matters alſo, and I ſuppoſe he cometh not home till it be Tueſday or Wedneſday next coming, and as ſoon as he cometh home he ſhall go about your errands that ye wrote to me for.

I ſent you a letter written on Tueſday laſt paſt, which, as I ſuppoſe, Roger Ormeſby delivered you, I took it to Alſon Partridge, ſhe rode with Clippeſby's wife to London.

It may be ſaid, that in a free Government like ours, every man ought to have a right to ornament his Carriage, his Plate, or the Wax on his Letters, with any Device moſt agreeable to himſelf without being accountable to any one.

This being allowed, what will follow?

That every one may aſſume a Name, or even a Title, or may decorate himſelf with the Inſignia of any of the honourable Orders. But would not ſuch an one be called a Fool or a Madman? He certainly would.

I have often thought that Government might fairly avail itſelf of the preſent prevailing taſte for Arms-bearing, by compelling every perſon of what rank or degree ſoever to take out an annual Licence or Certificate, for which a ſtated ſum according to his rank or degree ſhould be paid for the liberty of bearing or diſplaying any Arms, Creſt, or Device, on his Banners, Carriages, Plate, Seals, &c. &c.

This would be a Tax which could not affect the Poor, nor in reality any one who did not wiſh to put himſelf in the rank of a gentleman.

have an other Sone that ye woll lete it be named [2] Herry in remembrans of your brother Herry Alſo I p'y yow that ye woll ſend me dats and ſynamū as haſtyly as ye may I have ſpeke w^t Iohn Damme of that ye bad me ſey to hem to ſey to thom's note and he ſey he was well payd y^t ye ſeyd and thowgh y'in as ye dede. Ner'les I bad hym y^t he ſhuld ſey to the ſeyd thom's y'in as it wer of hymſelf w^t owte yor avys or any others and he ſeyd he ſhuld ſo and that it ſhuld be purveyd for this next weke at the fertheſt The blyſſed t'nyte have yow in his kepȳg Wretyn att Norwyche in haſt the Fryday next befor Candelmeſſe day

Be your [3] gronȳg wyff

[4] M. P.

11 by 5 ¼.

Paper Mark,
A Catharine Wheel.
Pl. xxi. N° 6.

[2] On the back of the original Letter in an ancient hand is written "It appere by this Lrē y^t Juſtice Paſton had a Sonne named Herry who dyed yonge."

LET-

I pray you if ye have another ſon that ye will let it be named [2] Harry, in remembrance of your brother Harry; alſo I pray you that ye would ſend me Dates and Cinnamon as haſtily as ye may. I have ſpoken with John Damme of that ye bad me ſay to him to ſay to Thomas Note, and he ſays he was well paid that ye ſaid and thought therein as ye did; nerles (*neverthelеſs*) I bad him that he ſhould ſay to the ſaid Thomas therein as it were of himſelf without your advice or any others; and he ſaid he ſhould ſo, and that it ſhould be purveyed for this next week at the furtheſt, the bleſſed Trinity have you in his keeping. Written at Norwich in haſte the Friday next before Candlemas day,

By your [3] groaning wife

[4] MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich.
Friday, 1ſt Februry,
1460. 39 H. VI.

[3] The concluſion of this letter is particular, and ſhews that the writer was very near her time of lying-in, it was written I believe about 1460.

[4] Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

LETTER CIJJ.

A L're to I. Paſton ar. from his wife.

PLEASE it you to wytte that it is lete me witte by on y^{t} owith you good wyll that y^{r} is leid awayte up on you in yis cuntre yf ye come here at large to bryng you to ye p'fence of ſyyche a lord in the north as ſhall not be for yor eaſe but to iop'die of yor lyf or gret and importable loſſe of yor goods And he that hath take up on hym yis ent'p'ſe now was undr ſhireff to G. Sayntlowe he hath gret favour herto by the meanes of the ſone of Will'm Baxter that lyth beryed in the grey freres and as it is reported the ſeid ſone hath geve gret ſylv^{r} to ye lords in the north to bryng ye matier a bowte and now he and alle his olde felaweſhip put owt their ſynnes and arn ryght flygge and mery hopyng alle thyng is and ſhalbe as they wole haue it alſo it is tolde me that the fadr of the baſtard in this cuntre ſeid that now ſhuld this ſhire be made ſewir for hym and his heires hens forward and for the baxſteris heyres alſo Wherby I conceyve they thynke that they have none enemy but you &c. Wherfor like it

This Letter has no direction, and leſt it ſhould be opened, the paper which faſtens the Seal is, along the edge, marked with lines by a pen which communicate with the latter, by which means the receiver might eaſily have diſcovered any attempts to have opened it, as the lines would not then have exactly coincided again.

On the back of it, but in a later hand, is written "A lrē to J. Paſton, ar. from his wife." Seal. Pl. xxiii. N° 7. where the marks &c. are drawn.

I ſhould think that this Letter was written juſt before the important criſis that finiſhed Henry's reign, and placed Edward on the throne; if ſo, it was written on the 1ſt of March 1460-1, at a time when the Friends of Henry might be elated at the approach of the Queen with her army, which had been lately victorious at St. Alban's, not foreſeeing

LETTER CIII.

A Letter to John Paſton, Eſquire, from his Wife.

PLEASE it you to weet that it is let me weet by one that oweth you good will, that there is laid await upon you in this Country, if ye come here at large, to bring you to the preſence of ſuch a Lord in the North as ſhall not be for your eaſe, but to jeopardy of your life, or great and importable loſs of your goods; and he that hath taken upon him this enterprize now, was Under Sheriff to Giles Saintlowe; he hath great favour hereto by the means of the Son of William Baxter that lieth buried in the Grey Friars; and as it is reported the ſaid Son hath gave great Silver to the Lords in the North to bring the matter about, and now he and all his old fellowſhip put out their ſins, and are right flygge *(ripe)* and merry, hoping all thing is and ſhall be as they will have it; alſo it is told me that the father of the baſtard in this Country ſaid that now ſhould this Shire be made ſure for him and his heirs, and for the Baxter's heirs alſo, whereby I conceive they think that they have none enemy but you, &c.

foreſeeing that in a few days the Duke of York would become their Sovereign. Giles Saint Loe was High Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk in 1458.

Autograph. Pl. II. N° 25.

N. B. To this Letter the initial Letter of her Chriſtian name is only affixed.

Seal, a Fleur de Lys. The marks drawn by a pen to ſhew if it had been opened, are here expreſſed. See Pl. xxiii. N° 7. The ſquare lines repreſent the paper folded over the Letter on which the Seal is impreſſed; the angular ones ſhew the connecting lines from that paper to the paper on which the Letter is written.

it you to be ye more war of yor gydyng for yor p^{r}ſones ſaufgard and alſo that ye be not to haſty to Come in to yis cuntre til ye here ye world more ſewer I trowe the berar of this ſhall telle more by mowthe as he ſhall be enfourmed of the rewell in this cuntre God haue you in his kepyng Wretyn in haſt the ſecund Sunday of Lent by candel light at euyn.

By yours, &c.

M.

12 by 5 ¼.

Paper Mark,
A Flower.
Pl. xxi. N° 3.

LETTER CJU.

To my Maſt^{r}. Paſton
the elder be thys lett^{r}.
delyv'yd in haſt.

RYGHT w'chypful S^{r}. I recommend me to zo^{r}. good maſt^{r}chyp the cauſe qwy I wryth I let zo^{r} have knowlech of y^{t} mene that be in Cotton Halle how they be ſtrangely dyſpoſyd a gey's zow for as I her ſay they make revell ye they melt led And brek down zo^{r} bregg and make yat no ma' go in to place but on a ledd^{r}. and make them as ſtrong as they kan a geyns zow be the Supportac'on of Jeney and Debe'h'm and hys Sone for they ſeye y^{t} that Jeney hath ſold the lyflod on to Debynh'm

Wherefore like it you to be the more wary of your guiding for your perſon's ſafe-guard, and alſo that ye be not too haſty to come into this Country till ye hear the world *(is)* more ſure. I trow the bearer of this ſhall tell more by mouth, as he ſhall be informed of the rule in this Country. God have you in his keeping. Written in haſte, the ſecond Sunday of Lent, by candle light at even.

By yours, &c.

MARGARET PASTON.

1ſt of March,
1460-1. 39 H. VI.

LETTER CIV.

To my Maſter Paſton the elder, be this Letter delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me to your good maſterſhip the cauſe why I write, I let you have knowledge of the men that be in Cotton-Hall, *(in Suffolk,)* how they be ſtrangely diſpoſed againſt you, for as I hear ſay, they make revel there, they melt lead, and break down your bridge, and make that no man may go into (*the*) place but on a ladder, and make them as ſtrong as they can againſt you, by the ſupportation of Jenney, and Debenham and his Son, for they ſay there that Jenney hath ſold the livelihood unto Debenham, and that his

bynh'm and y^{t} hys Sone the knyth ſhall dwelle ther and ther forr they have warnyd a Coort ageyns Munday and now y^{ey} ar a vyſed to kepyt on Sat'day be forr Mu'day Qwat they mene y'by I wot nev^{r}. but as for the felechyp in the place y^{t} ys ther now and have be her al y'ys wyke ther ys no ma' of Subſtans as we her And ther have be but vij or viij al thys wyke but y^{t} wyll be a gret felechyp thys nyth or to mor'we up on Sat'day for than they wyl kepe ye Cort And as for Edward Dale he dar not a byde wyl at hem they thret hym ſo be Cauſe he wyl ſend them no vytaly And as for me ſelf Edward Dale dar not let me wyll be ther for takyng in ſuſpecyon And jas for the Tenaunts they be wel dyſpoſyd except j or ij ſo that ze wyl ſupport them in haſt for they may nowt kepe of ther katel of the Ground long and ſpecyally they deſyr to have zo^{r}. owne p'ſens and they wold be of gret Cownfort No mor I wryth to zo^{r}. but the holy

On the back of this Letter, but in a later hand is the following Memorandum, "Robtus Debenham ar' hūit exit. Gilbt'm Debenham mil. fil. ſuū, ipſo pat. viven."

We have here a curious, and at that time a common inſtance of forceable entry, and keeping poſſeſſion by force, from which, and many other ſimilar accounts contained in theſe Letters, we ſee the propriety of buildings of that age being ſtrengthened by Towers, Moats, and Draw-bridges, as defences againſt thoſe forceable invaders of private property.

William Naunton the Writer of this Letter was of the very ancient and worſhipful Family of Naunton, at this time ſituated at Alderton in Suffolk. His deſcendants afterwards removed to Letheringham in the ſame County, where they poſſeſſed a conſiderable property, and reſided in a venerable manſion, formerly the Abbey. The laſt male poſſeſſor of this Eſtate left it by will to his heir at law, the conſequence of which has been that pretended heirs have been continually ſtarting up, and diſputing the right of the

his Son the Knight ſhall dwell there, and therefore they have warned a Court againſt Monday, and now they have adviſed to keep it on Saturday before Monday; what they mean thereby I wot never; but as for the fellowſhip in the place that is there now, and have been there all this week, there is no man of ſubſtance as we hear, and there have been but ſeven or eight all this week, but there will be a great fellowſhip this night or to-morrow upon Saturday, for then they will keep the Court; and as for Edward Dale he dare not abide well at home, they threaten him ſo, becauſe he will ſend them no vytaly (*victuals*,) and as for myſelf Edward Dale dare not let me well be there for taking in ſuſpicion. And as for the Tenants, they be well diſpoſed, except one or two, ſo that ye will ſupport them in haſte, for they may not keep of their Cattle off the ground longer, and ſpecially they deſire to have your own preſence, and they would be of great comfort.

the perſon in poſſeſſion to the detriment of the Eſtate, and to the utter deſtruction of the Church and Chancel, now become a ruinous maſs from neglect, and in which were many curious, expenſive, and valuable Monuments, of this, the Wingfields and other allied Families; the windows were alſo adorned with exceedingly elegant Paintings on the Glaſs, of Scripture Hiſtory, Effigies, and armorial Bearings, all of which have been within theſe very few years entirely demoliſhed! The Monuments however are moſt of them preſerved by the accurate pencil of Mr. Johnſon, of Woodbridge, at the expence of my Friend Craven Ord, Eſq. This Writer little thought, whilſt he was lamenting the proceedings at Cotton-Hall to J. Paſton, that in after-ages his deſcendants would be deſpoiling a litigated property in ſomewhat a ſimilar manner.

Autograph. Pl. xx. N° 36.

holy goſt have zo^{r}. in kepyng wretyn on the Fryday aft^{r}. my departyng.

Be yor ſ^{r}vaunt,

Wyllya Paston.

11 ½ by 6 ¼.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. xxii. N° 13.

LETTER CII.

To my ryght Worſhipfull
Maiſter and Brother
John Paſton this letter
be taken.

RYGHT worſhipfull And Reverend Mayſter and Brother w^{t} alle my ſ^{r}vice I r'cōmaunde me on to yow pleaſe hit oute yor grete Wyſedom to have yn yor deſcrete Remēbrauns ye ſtreite Ordr on which we ben p'feſſid And on which ze er bownden to kepe yor Reſidens and ſpecially on y^{t} tyme of Cryſtmas amonggis yor Confrerys of this holy Ordre ye Temple of Syon for ynleſſe yan ze kepe dewly the poynts of yor holy Religion owr Maiſter Thom's Babyngton maiſter and Sou^{r}ayn of owr Order by yaſſent of his Brythryn ben avyſed to Awarde azenſte yow ryght ſharp and haſty proces to do calle yow to do yor obcervauns and to obeye the poynts of yor Religion which wer on to me grete hevyneſſe Wherfore I as he y^{t} hath moſt gretteſt

No more I write to you, but the Holy Ghoſt have you in keeping. Written on the Friday after my departing.

By your Servant,

WILLIAM NAUNTON.

Friday,
. . . . 14.
Date uncertain.

LETTER CV.

To my right worſhipful Maſter and Brother John Paſton, this Letter be taken.

RIGHT worſhipful and reverent Maſter and Brother, with all my ſervice I recommend me unto you, pleaſe it unto your great Wiſdom to have in your diſcreet remembrance the ſtrait order on which we be profeſſed, and on which ye are bounden to keep your reſidence, and ſpecially on this time of Chriſtmaſs amongſt your Confreres of this Holy Order, the Temple of Syon; for unleſs that ye keep duly the points of your holy Religion, our Maſter Thomas Babyngton, Maſter and Sovereign of our order, by the aſſent of his Brethren, be adviſed to award againſt you right ſharp and haſty proceſs to do call you to do your obſervance, and to obey the points of your religion, which were unto me great heavineſs. Wherefore I, as he that

Cauſe and ys moſt bownden on to yr grete gentylneſſe and alſo whome nat'e and kynde moſt ſpecially byfore evry of alle owr Breyyn bynden me to owe and wilne yow goode wylle and trewe hert Conſyderyng ye grete tyme of penawns yt ze havyn ben yn fro ſone upon Mighelmas hederto yt ys to ſay yn Relevyng and Suſtenawns of yor r evyñ Cryſten And alſo yn ye Charytable and meritory dede of Almyſſdoyng yt ys to ſay yn plenteous and liberall zeftis which ys more pryuſſeur yan goolde er Sylver which hath nat be at alle tymys to yor grete eaſe neyyr hertis pleſ'uns but rather to yor grete deſeſe and yntollerable peyne And wher godds lawe and manys lawe acorden yt hit ſhall nat be lawf' to non erthely man to be ſo lyberall and plenteous of yt that god ſendith hym yt he ſholde ſo deſpoſe hit ſo yt he ſholde nowgch have to lyve by And foraſmych as I have p'fite knowhich of yor freell and natrall deſpoſiſeon ſo ſet on to yeym that ben nedy and hunggery yt of yor ſelfe ze have no myght neyyr power to abſteyne and rewle yorſelf but alſo long as God ſendith and zevyth yow wher'of to diſpoſe and help yor evyn Cryſten ze moſt nedis deſpoſe hit forth a monggus yor evyn Criſten I conſeile yow yt yn alſo haſty and goodely tyme as ze kan to come on to yor holy Bryyyn yt ben of ys devowt and clos Cōverſacon to yentent yt ze myght ben advertyſid and lernyd by theym ye goode Rewle and meſſur yt ze owght and ſholde

We have here a moſt curious Letter from a brother of the Order of the Temple of Syon to J. Paſton, earneſtly perſuading him to a temporary reſidence amongſt them, according to the Rules of the Order, and diſſuading him from improper Alms-giving to the hurt of his private affairs.

The chuſing of a place to do his penance in during Advent, reminds us of the Eſtabliſhment for the ſecret Houſe of the Earl of Northumberland, in the reign of Henry the

hath moſt greateſt cauſe, and is moſt bounden unto your great gentleneſs, and alſo whom nature and kin moſt ſpecially before every of all our Brethren binden me to owe and will you good will and true heart, conſidering the great time of penance that ye have been in from ſoon upon Michaelmas hitherto, that is to ſay in relieving and ſuſtenance of your [1] Even Criſten, and alſo in the charitable and meritory *(meritorious)* deed of Alms-doing, that is to ſay, in plenteous and liberal Gifts, which is more precioufer than gold or ſilver which hath not been at all times to your great eaſe, neither heart's pleaſaunce (*pleaſure*) but rather to your great diſeaſe and intolerable pain, and where God's Law and man's Law accord, that it ſhall not be lawful to none earthly man to be ſo liberal and plenteous of that that God ſendeth him, that he ſhould ſo diſpoſe it ſo that he ſhould nought have to live by; and for as much as I have perfect knowledge of your freell (*free will*) and natural diſpoſition ſo ſet unto them that be needy and hungry, that of yourſelf ye have no might, neither power to abſtain and rule yourſelf, but alſo long as God ſendeth and giveth you, whereof to diſpoſe and help your even Criſten, ye muſt needs diſpoſe it forth amongſt your even Criſten, I counſel you that in all ſo haſty and goodly time as ye can, to come unto your holy Brethren that be of this devout and cloſe counſel, to the intent that ye might be advertiſed and learned by them the good

the Eighth, who at certain ſeaſons of the year retired from his principal Manſion to ſome ſmall Retreat, where he lived privately, and moſt probably performed offices of Devotion and Charity, as atonements for his ſins of omiſſion and commiſſion.

See the Northumberland Book, p. 361, and notes at p. 442.

We may from this Letter ſuppoſe that perſons of inferior rank at certain times likewiſe left their houſes, and retired for the ſame purpoſes of praying and alms-doing, and that the ſeaſon of Advent was the time ſet apart by J. Paſton for thoſe religious duties.

[1] Even Criſten. I wiſh for an explanation of this.

rule

ſholde have yn ye deſpociſton and delyng of yor Almys And alſo ſethnys ze haven choſen zow a place yn this ſeſon of avent yn which ze have had a r'ſonable leyſour and ſpace to do yor penn's yn Which drawith faſt to a ende which hath been a cōvenyent place as for ye ceſon of ye yer And now hit drawith faſt on to Criſtmas on which tyme ev^{r}y trewe Cryſten man ſholde be mery jocūde and glad And ſēthnys y'is no place which by lyklyhod of r'aſon ze ſhulde fynde yn yor hert to be ſo gladde and yocūde yn as ze ſholde be yn the place of yor p'feſſion a mounggis yor holy Bryy'yn yn which place yn y^{t}. Ceſon of ye yer hit ys a cuſtumyd to be alle man^{r} of [z] deſport lyke as hit is nat unknowe to yor wiſſe deſcreſcon Wherfore as my ſymple Reaſon ledith me yor grete deſcrecon ſholde rewle yow y^{t} ze ſholde app'che nygh ye plaſe of yor holy Relegion yn alſo haſty tyme as ze code er myght of whos comyng alle yor ſaide Brey'yn wolde be glade and fayn' And yn eſpeciall I yor ſ^{t}'unt & Broy' like as I am moſt ſyngguler bownden to yencreſſe of yor proſp'ite and welfar which I ſhall ever deſir w^{t} godds merſy which have yow undir his bleſſid and fav'orable proteccon Wrytten yn the Temple of Syon iij^{d} day of Decemb'r yn grete haſt

By yor ſ^{r}vūt and broy^{r}

[3] T.

11 ½ by 8.

[z] The jovial manner of living at Chriſtmas in theſe ſocieties is here likewiſe pointed out, and makes us wiſh we could have taken a look at their Paſtimes, Feaſts, &c.

[3] The writer of this ſingular Letter was from his own account a relation of J. Paſton, and his Signature is like what in heraldry often repreſents a Fountain, it is therefore

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rule and meaſure that ye ought and ſhould have in the diſpoſition and dealing of your Alms.

And alſo ſithen (*ſince*) ye have choſen you a place in this ſeaſon of Advent, in which ye have had a reaſonable leiſure and ſpace to do your penance in, which draweth faſt to an end, which hath been a convenient place as for the ſeaſon of the year, and now it draweth faſt unto Chriſtmas, on which time every true Chriſtian man ſhould be merry, jocund, and glad; and ſithen there is no place which by likelihood of reaſon ye ſhould find in your heart to be ſo glad and jocund in, as ye ſhould be in the place of your profeſſion amongſt your holy Brethren, in which place in this ſeaſon of the year it is accuſtomed to be (*have*) all manner of [a] diſport like as it is not unknown to your wiſe diſcretion; wherefore as my ſimple reaſon leadeth me, your great diſcretion ſhould rule you, that ye ſhould approach nigh (*draw near to*) the place of your holy religion in all ſo haſty time as ye could or might, of whoſe coming all your ſaid Brethren would be glad and fain (*pleaſed,*) and in eſpecial I your Servant and Brother, like as I am moſt ſingular bounden to the increaſe of your proſperity and welfare, which I ſhall ever deſire with God's mercy, which have you under his bleſſed and favourable protection. Written in the Temple of Syon, the 3d day of December, in great haſte.

By your Servant and Brother,

[3] T.

Temple of Syon,
3d December.

poſſible that his name might be Thomas Fountaine; as a family of that name reſided at Sall, in the County of Norfolk, about the time that this Letter was written.

Autograph. Pl. xx. N° 35.

The Date of this Letter muſt remain uncertain.

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LETTER CVJ.

To my Rygth Worſhipfull hoſbond Iohn Paſton be yis delyverid in haſt.

RYGTH Wurchipfull hoſbond I recōmawnd me to yow deſyrīg hertyly to her of yor Welfar preying yow to wete that itt was told me yis weke that y' is Afayr plaſe to ſell in ſeynt laveranſis paryſch and ſtant ner the chirche and by ye Water ſyde ye whiche place toppis hath to ſell Pyte Alyſter bowgth itt of toppis and now for defawt of paymēt toppis hath enterid ayen y'inne And ſhall ſelle itt in haſt as it it is told me the ſeyd lyſter dwellyth y'inne at yis tym but he ſhall owte for he is hald rygth apore man I ſuppoſe if ye lyke to bye itt when ye com hom ye ſhall mowe have itt of toppis Als godechepe or better than Anoyr ſhuld Als for tydyngs we have none gode in yis Contr' I p'y god ſend us gode jtt was told me that Rychard ſowthwell hath enterid in ye maner of hale ye whiche is ye lady ı Boyſys and kepyth itt wt ſtrength wt ſeche Another felaſhep as hath be att Brayſton and waſtyth and diſpoylyth all yt y'is And ye lady Boys as it is told me is to london to compleyn to ye kyng and to ye lordys ther of jtt ſemyth it was not for nowgth yt he held wt Charlys and his Felaſhep I prey yow yt ye wol vowcheſawf to ſpeke to Jamys Gloys to bye ye Ungwentū Albū yt I ſpake to hym for And yt ye woll remembr yor. fayr dowgteris gyrdyl I

We have in this Letter an inſtance of force uſed in entering into poſſeſſion of Manors and Eſtates, a very common method of proceeding in thoſe violent and unſettled times.

LETTER CVI.

To my right worſhipful Huſband John Paſton be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I recommend me to you deſiring heartily to hear of your welfare, praying you to weet that it was told me this week that there is a fair place to ſell in Saint Laurence's pariſh, and ſtandeth near the church, and by the water ſide, the which place Topps hath to ſell, Pyte a Lyſter (*a Dyer*) bought it of Topps, and now for default of payment Topps hath entered again therein, and ſhall ſell it in haſte as it is told me, the ſaid Lyſter dwelleth therein at this time, but he ſhall out, for he is held right a poor man; I ſuppoſe if ye like to buy it, when ye come home ye ſhall mow (*be able to*) have it of Topps as good cheap or better than another ſhould.

As for tidings we have none good in this country, I pray God ſend us good; it was told me that Richard Southwell hath entered in the manor of (*Holm*) Hale, the which is the Lady [1] Boys's, and keepeth it with ſtrength with ſuch another Fellowſhip as hath been at Brayſton, and waſteth and deſpoileth all that there is; and the Lady Boys, as it is told me, is to London to complain to the King, and to the Lords thereof; it ſeemeth it was not for nought that he held with Charles and his Fellowſhip.

I pray you that ye will vouchſafe to ſpeak to James Gloys to buy the Unguentum Album that I ſpake to him for; and that ye will remember your fair Daughter's Girdle.

[1] Sibilla, daughter and heir of Sir Robert Ylley, and widow of Sir Roger Boys, Knight; ſhe was alive after 1450.

hope ye ſhull be at hom ſo ſone that I woll do wryte nomor tydyngs to yow The blyſſid t'nyte have yow in his kepīg And ſend yow gode ſpede in all y^t ye woll ſpede well inne Wretyn at Norwyche on ye Aſcencon day

Yours

[2] M. P.

11 ½ by 6 ½.

[2] Autograph. Pl. 11. N° 25.

LETTER CUIJ.

To Iohn Paſton eſquyer.

SYR I recūmawnd me to zow pleaſe yt zow to wette yat my modyr hathe cauſyd me to putte Gr'gory owte of my ſ^rvyſe as god help I wryte to zow the very Cauſe why yt happyd hȳ to have A Knavys loſte ī pleyn termes to ſwhyve A quene and ſo dyd ī ye Konynecloſſe yt fortunyd hȳ to be A ſpyed be ij plowemē of my modyrs whyche werne as fayne as he of yat mater and deſyerd hȳ to have p^rte and as Kompany Requeryd ſeyd not nay jn ſo myche yat ye plowemē had her alle A nythe ī ther Stabylle and Gr'gory was clere delyv^rd of her And as he Swherys had not A do w^t her w^tin my modyrs place not w^t ſtanddyng my modyr thynkks yat he was grownd of yat mate^r wherfor ther is no r'medy but he moſte a voyde And ī ſo myche yat at ye laſte tyme yat ze wer her deſyerd hȳ of me yf yat he ſchuld dep^rte from me I ſend zow ye very cawſe of hys dep^rtyng as my modyr ſethe but I ā ī ſ^rteyn ye cōtrary is true yt is nomor

I hope ye ſhall be at home ſo ſoon that I will write no more tidings to you. The bleſſed Trinity have you in his keeping, and ſend you good ſpeed in all that ye will ſpeed well in. Written at Norwich on the Aſcenſion day.

Yours

MARGARET PASTON.

Norwich, May
H. VI. Date uncertain.

LETTER CVII.

To John Paſton, Eſq.

SIR, I recommend me to you, pleaſe it you to weet that my Mother hath cauſed me to put Gregory out of my ſervice, as God help I write to you the very cauſe why; it happened him to have a Knave's luſt, in plain terms to lie with a Quean, and ſo did in the Coning Cloſe; it fortuned him to be eſpied by two plowmen of my mother's, which were as fain (*deſirous*) as he of that matter, and deſired him to have part, and as company required, ſaid not nay, inſomuch that the plowmen had her all night in their ſtable, and Gregory was clean delivered of her, and as he ſwears had not ado with her within my mother's place; notwithſtanding my mother thinks that he was (*the*) ground of that matter, wherefore there is no remedy but he muſt avoid; and inſomuch that at the laſt time that ye were here, *(ye)* deſired him of me, if that he ſhould depart from me, I ſend you the very cauſe of his departing, as my mother ſaith, but I am in certain the contrary is true; it is no more but that he cannot

but yat he cā not pleſe alle p^rtys but yat Iantylmā is hys woords lord he hathe ſeyd yat he woold lyfte them whom yat hȳ pleſe and as yt ſcheweyt welle he lyftyd on xiiij myle ī a mornyng and nowe he hathe ben caw ſar of hys lyfte I wot not how far but yf yat ze be hys bett^r. maſt^r but and we A mong us geue not hȳ A lyfte I pray god yat we nev^r thryve and yat is hys ītente I trowe to bryng us to Wherfor I r'quer zow yf yat yt pleſe zow to haue hȳ yat zewylle be ye bett^r maſt^r to hȳ for my ſake for I ā he yat js as ſory to dep^rte from hȳ as any mā on lyve from hys ſ^rvāt and be my trowthe as farforthe as I knowe he is as true as any on lyve I troſte my fort'ne ſchale be bett^r yā ev^r to leve thus her but yf I wer hens wards I enſuer zow I wold not ſchange for nō yat I knowe he is p'fytabylle on dyu's thynggs as ze knowe welle ther has ben a gr' br'ke be twyx calle and me as I ſchal enforme zow at my comyng wyche ſchalle be on Wedynſday next be ye grace of god who p'ſ^rve zow Wr'tȳ at Mawteby on Wyteſon eve

Edmond Paſton.

12 by 6.
Paper Mark,
A Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. IX. N° 12.

We have here an account of a low amour; but the reaſon why I have given this letter, is to ſhew that E. Paſton's Mother was governed by ſome one in the houſe; who took upon him to direct as he pleaſed, and for that reaſon a party ſeemed to be forming againſt him by her children. The perſon here meant was, I believe, Gloir, a prieſt, who reſided in the houſe, and was a favourite with Agnes Paſton.

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pleaſe all parties; but that Gentleman is his word's Lord, he hath ſaid that he would lift them whom that him pleaſe, and as it ſhewed well he lifted one 14 miles in a morning, and now he hath been cauſer of his lift, I wot not how far, but if (*unleſs*) that ye be his better maſter; but and we among us give not him a lift, I pray God that we never thrive, and that is his intent, I trow, to bring us to; wherefore I require you, if that it pleaſe you to have him, that ye will be the better maſter to him for my ſake, for I am he that is as ſorry to depart from him, as any man alive from his ſervant, and by my truth, as farforth as I know, he is as true as any alive.

I truſt my fortune ſhall be better than ever to live thus here; but if I were hence wards I aſſure you I would not change for none that I know; he is profitable on divers things as ye know well.

There has been a great break (*breech*) betwixt Calle and me, as I ſhall inform you at my coming, which ſhall be on Wedneſday next by the grace of God who preſerve you.

Written at Mawteby on Whitſun eve.

EDMOND PASTON.

Mawteby,
Whitſun Eve.

As a Miſtreſs of a family ſhe was certainly doing her duty in diſcouraging improper behaviour in her ſervants; but then, as now, we find, it would be ſometimes prudent to overlook impreprieties in a domeſtic, who was in other reſpects a valuable one.
Autograph. Pl. xx. N° 30.

LET-

LETTER CUIJJ.

To my mayſtre Iohn Paſton.

PLESITH yor maiſt^{r}ſchip to wit that I whas at Scole and ſpake w^{t} alblaſtre Iohn Sadeler and w^{i} other good yom̄e of the contre to undreſtonde how they were gided for the vetelyng of the Barge of Yermouth And I undreſtonde be th̄e that there hundred haue payed nev^{r}theles it is but litell ther was gatherd in that hundred xviij^{s} and certein Corn and ſome other hundred vj m'rc and corne and ſo they have payed in all the hundreds and townys here a boute that it to ſey Eſt Flegge and Weſt Flegge and up to Blofeld Tunſted and up to Stalom I undreſtand be the comiſcon that debenh'm hath it is more large thanne Maſt^{r} Iohn is as ye ſchal undreſtand wherof I ſend you A copy weche cauſeth me that I labo^{r} no ferther therin notw^{t}ſtandyng yor maiſt^{r}ſchip ſchal have knowleche what every hundred geve and Yermeth bothe Wret̄e at Wynterton the morwe aftre I dep^{r}ted from yor maiſt^{r}ſchip.

Yo^{r} poore bedman,

Nic. Calle.

11 ¾ by 5 ¼.

I have given this Letter as it aſcertains the public manner by which the Ships were victualled, and ſhews us that it was done by a kind of voluntary ſubſcription, in every town throughout the hundreds, of money and corn, though what proportion the corn bore to the money collected, does not appear from this account.

LETTER CVIII.

To my Maſter, John Paſton.

PLEASETH your Maſterſhip to weet, that I was at Scole, and ſpake with Alblaſter and John Sadler, and with other good Yeomen of the Country, to underſtand how they were guided for the victualling of the Barge of Yarmouth; and I underſtand by them that their Hundred have paid, nevertheleſs it is but little, there was gathered in that Hundred eighteen Shillings and certain Corn; and (*in*) ſome other Hundred ſix Marks (4*l.*) and corn; and ſo they have paid in all the Hundreds and Towns here about, that is to ſay, Eaſt Fleg and Weſt Fleg, and up to Blofield, Tunſtead, and up to Stalman, I underſtand by the commiſſion that Debenham hath, it is more large than Maſter John's, as ye ſhall underſtand, whereof I ſend you a Copy, which cauſeth me that I labour no farther therein, notwithſtanding your maſterſhip ſhall have knowledge what every Hundred gives and Yarmouth both.

Written at Winterton, the morrow after I departed from your maſterſhip.

Your poor Beadſman,

RICHARD CALLE.

Winterton.

Richard Calle of Edinthorpe, he afterwards married Margery, daughter of John and Margaret Paſton. Autograph. Pl. XVIII. N° 9.

LET-

LETTER CIX.

the copy of a letter ſent to Iohn Paſton be the undir Shieve of Norff'.

RYGHT Worchepfull Sr I recomaund me on to you &c. And Sr as for the eleccon of the Knyghts of the Shire here in Norff in good feyth her hath ben moch to do nevir the latyr to lete yow have knowlech of the demenyng my maſter Berney my maſter Grey and ye had grettyſt voyſe And I p'poſe me as I woll anſwer god to retorne the dieu eleccon that is aftir the ſufficiente yow and maſtir Grey nevir the latyr I have a maſter Wretyn at Hederſet the thurſday next befor Midſomer.

By

Willm Pryce.

11 ½ by 2.

It appears by this Copy of a Letter, (for ſo it is ſtyled at the top of the paper) that the Candidates were not always preſent on the day of Election. The Under Sheriff here meant to do his duty, and to make his return after the ſufficient, that is, according

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LETTER CX.

To my right worſchipfull Sr Rob't Rokyſby.

RYGHT wurſhipfull S' I recomaunde me to you beſechyng you of yor goode maſtrſhip that ye wol wecheſafe to ſpeeke to Richard Kowven that he myght brynge me or ſende me

LETTER CIX.

The Copy of a Letter ſent to John Paſton, by the Under Sheriff of Norfolk.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me unto you, &c. And Sir as for the Election of the Knights of the Shire here in Norfolk, in good faith here hath been much to do, nevertheleſs to let you have knowledge of the demeaning, my Maſter Berney, my Maſter Grey and ye had greateſt voice, and I purpoſe me, as I will anſwer God, to return the due election, that is after the ſufficient you and Maſter Grey, nevertheleſs I have a Maſter. Written at Hetherſet, the Thurſday next before Midſummer.

By

WILLIAM PRYCE.

Hetherſet,
Thurſday, June.

ing to the greateſt number of votes, though he at the ſame time hints, that it is not entirely as he ſhall pleaſe, but as the High Sheriff ſhall direct.

Autograph. Pl. xx. N° 34.

LETTER CX.

To my right worſhipful Sir Robert Rokeſby.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me to you, beſeeching you of your good maſterſhip, that ye will vouchſafe to ſpeak to Richard Kowven, that he might bring me or ſend

me the money that is betwen hym and me in all the haſte that he maye for in goode Feythe I hadde neu^{r} more neede for to haue helpe of my goode as I haue at this tyme for godwot it ſtonde right ſtraunge w^{t} me For the Falſe chayler that kepeth me entretethe me worſe thanne it weere a Dogge For I am feterid worſe thanne eu' J whas And manacled in the hands by the Daye and nyght For he is a feerde of me for brekyng a weye he makethe falſe tales of me throw the means of a falſe qwene that was tendyng to a Frenſheman that is preſon' to my lorde Rooſe and for be cauſe of that he bronde me eu'y day be Iohn of Berney that is goone to the tother lords but I truſte to god oonys to qwite hys meede And S^{r} J thanke you mekel of that ye haue doone for me or ſeide And S' J ſhal def'ue it a yenſt you be the g'ce of god for I ſeythe J am be holden to you more thane to all men that eu' I founde ſyn I cam in preſon No more to you At this tyme but god haue you in his kepyng be yor f^{r}v'nt and bedman.

Perſe.

11½ by 3 ½.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. VIII. N° 2.

It appears from what is ſaid in this Letter, that Perſe was committed as one who had been a partizan in the civil wars of the times, though of which party it does not appear; nor is it material, as my reaſon for giving the letter is to ſhew the treatment of priſoners. Autograph. Pl. XIX. N° 24.

me the money that is between him and me in all the haſte that he may, for in good faith I had never more need for to have help of my good, as I have at this time, for God wot it ſtands right ſtrange with me, for the falſe Gaoler that keepeth me entreateth me worſe than it were a Dog, for I am fettered worſe than ever I was, and manacled on the hands both day and night, for he is afraid of me for breaking away; he maketh falſe tales of me, through the means of a falſe Quean that was tending to a Frenchman that is priſoner to my Lord Roos, and for becauſe of that he bronde (*upbraideth*) me every day by John of Berney, that is gone to the other Lords, but I truſt to God once to quit him his meed; and Sir I thank you mickle (*much*) of that ye have done for me or ſaid, and Sir I ſhall deſerve it againſt you, by the grace of God, for I feythe (*in faith*) I am beholden to you more than to all men that ever I found ſince I came in priſon.

No more to you at this time, but God have you in his keeping.

By your Servant and Beadſman,

PERSE.

This Letter has neither place nor date mentioned.

Robert Lord Roos was one of the embaſſy to bring over King Henry the Sixth's Queen; and Thomas Lord Roos was beheaded on Tower-hill by the Lancaſter party: which of them is here mentioned I know not.

I am likewiſe ignorant who Sir Robert Rokeſby was, and whether the letter was written in the reign of Henry VI. or Edward IV.

A

CATALOGUE

OF THE

ORIGINAL LETTERS, &c.

A LIST OF THE

PLATES, and NUMBERS thereon.

AN

EXPLANATION of the PLATE of SEALS, &c.

A CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX to Volumes I. and III.

The PLATES of AUTOGRAPHS, N° XVII. XVIII. XIX. XX.

The PLATES of PAPER-MARKS, N° XXI. XXII.

The PLATE of Seals, &c. N° XXIII.

A CATALOGUE of the ORIGINAL LETTERS,

HENRY VI.

VOL. III.

Autographs. Pl.	Nº	Letters From and to whom.
XVII.	1	EARL of Warwick's articles.
	2	Dalling's petition to parliament againſt ſir William Paſton.
	3	Katharine, ducheſs of Norfolk, to John Paſton, eſquire.
II.	20	4 Markaryte Paſton, to John Paſton.
II.	20	5 Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
III.	28	6 James Greſham, to ſir William Paſton.
XVIII.	1	7 John Gyney, to ſir William Paſton.
II.	19	8 Agnes Paſton, to Edmund Paſton.
XVIII.	2	9 John Hauteyn, clerk, to the lord chancellor.
XVIII.	3	10 Sir Roger Chamberlayn, to Agnes Paſton.
II.	19	11 Agnes Paſton, to John Paſton.
II.	15	12 Sir John Faſtolf, to Stephen Scroope.
II.	19	13 Agnes Paſton, to John Paſton.
XVIII.	4	14 Sir Robert Williamſon, to Agnes Paſton.
II.	14	15 William Yelverton, juſtice, to ſir John Faſtolf.
II.	20	16 Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
		17 The Commons, to the King.
XVIII.	5	18 Robert, prior of Bromholm, to John Paſton.
II.	20	19 Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
III.	28	20 James Greſham, to John Paſton.
II.	15	21 Sir John Faſtolf, to Sir Thomas Howys, clerk.
III.	28	22 James Greſham, to John Paſton.
XVIII.	6	23 J. Damme, and J. Greſham, to John Paſton, eſquire.
II.	15	24 Sir John Faſtolf, to ſir Thomas Howys, clerk,
I.	8	25 John Vere, Earl of Oxford, to John Jermyn, ſheriff.
I.	3	26 John duke of Norfolk, againſt Edmund, Duke of Somerſet.
XIX.	16	27 Thomas Howys, clerk, to ſir John Faſtolf.
II.	25	28 Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
XX.	31	29 W. Wyrceſtre, to John Paſton.
II.	15	30 Sir John Faſtolf, knight, to ſir Thomas Howys, clerk.
III.	33	31 John Bokking, to W. Wayte.
I.	8	32 John Vere, Earl of Oxford, to John Paſton.

With their AUTOGRAPHS, DATES, and PAPER-MARKS,

HENRY VI.

VOL. III.

	Dates.	Paper Marks.	Paper Marks. Pl. N°
1	29 November, 1432, 11 H. 6.	Theſe are on parchment.	
2	. . . . 1434, 13 H. 6.		
3	2 October, after 1434, 13 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	XXII. 13
4	Trinity Sunday, after 1440, 18 H. 6.		
5	28 September, 1443, 22 H. 6.		
6	30 January, 1443, 22 H. 6.	A bell.	XXI. 1
7	February, before 1444, 23 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII. 2
8	4 February, 1444, 23 H. 6.	A bull's or goat's head.	X. 8
9	About 1445, 23 H. 6.		
10	15 September, after 1444, 23 H. 6.		
11	29 October, ſoon after 1444, 23 H. 6.		
12	30 October, between 1444, & 1459, 23 & 38 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII. 2
13	17 November, after 1444, 23 H. 6.		
14	After 1444, 23 H. 6.		
15	After 1444, 23 H. 6.	Cap and fleur de lys.	VIII. 4
16	April 1448, 26 H. 6.		
17	February, 1449, 28 H. VI.	Some kind of flower, q?	XXI. 9
18	March, 1449, 28 H. 6.		
19	April, about 1450, 28 H. 6.		
20	19 Auguſt, 1450, 28 H. 6.		
21	15 October, 1450, 29 H. 6.	A pair of ſhears.	XXI. 5
22	About October, 1450, 29 H. 6.	Cap and fleur de lys.	VIII. 4
23	11 November, 1450, 29 H. 6.		
24	4 December, 1450, 29 H. 6.	A pair of ſhears.	XXI. 5
25	2 January, 1450, 29 H. 6.	Croſs and mound.	XXI. 8
26	. . . . 1450 or 1453, 29 or 32 H. 6.		
27	9 May, 1451, 29 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	XXII. 15
28	1 July, 1451, 29 H. 6.		
29	7 July, about 1451, 29 H. 6.	A ring.	XXI. 4
30	23 September, 1451, 30 H. 6.		
31	2 January, between 1450 and 1454, 29 & 34 H. 6.		
32	28 Dec. between 1450 and 1455, 29 and 34 H. 6.		

Autographs. Pl.	Autographs. N°	Letters	From and to whom.
XVIII.	7	33	Sir John Wyngefeld, to John Paſton, eſquire.
XVIII.	10	34	Sir John Hevenyngham, knight, to Margaret Paſton.
XVIII.	8	35	Alice Crane, to Margaret Paſton.
XVIII.	9	36	R. Calle, to John Paſton.
XVIII.	11	37	W. Wayte, to John Paſton.
II.	19	38	Agnes Paſton, to John Paſton.
II.	25	39	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
II.	25	40	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
		41	. . . . . to John Paſton.
		42	. . . . . to John Paſton, (duke of York, to the king.)
II.	19	43	Agnes Paſton, to John Paſton.
II.	25	44	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
II.	19	45	Augnes Paſton, to John Paſton.
XVIII.	12	46	John Clopton, to John Paſton.
		47	Clopton's marriage articles.
I.	12	48	The lord Scales, to John Paſton, eſquire.
II.	19	49	Agnes Paſton, to John Paſton.
XIX.	14	50	Elizabeth Clere, to John Paſton.
XIX.	15	51	R. Dollay, to John Paſton.
XIX.	13	52	Edm. Grey, ld. of Haſtynges, Waifford, & of Rithyn, to John Paſton, eſq.
		53	John Paſton, to lord Grey, &c. (a copy.)
II.	21	54	William Paſton, to John Paſton.
II.	15	55	Sir John Faſtolf, to John Paſton.
XIX.	16	56	Thomas Howys, to John Paſton.
II.	15	57	Sir John Faſtolf, knight, to John Paſton.
XIX.	17	58	The Abbot of St. Benett's, to John Paſton, eſquire.
II.	25	59	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
XIX.	18	60	John Jenney, to John Paſton, eſquire.
IV. 1. I. 7	10	61	The earls of March, Warwick, and Saliſbury, to all mayors, ſheriffs, &c.
XX.	23	62	John (Chadworth) biſhop of Lincoln, to John Paſton, eſquire.
I.	3	63	John (Mowbray) duke of Norfolk, to the commons of Norfolk.
II.	20	64	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
II.	24	65	W. Botoner, HR. to John Paſton.
		66	Sir John Faſtolf's accounts.
		67	Sir John Faſtolf's accounts.
I.	9	68	Thomas Bourchier, archbiſhop of Canterbury, to John Paſton, eſquire.
III.	32	69	Henry Windſor, to John Paſton.
XIX.	19	70	William Tailboys, to John viſcount Beaumont.
II.	25	71	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
XIX.	20	72	Dame Alice Ogard, to John Paſton, eſquire.
II.	23	73	BotoHRner, to John Paſton.
II.	24	74	Botoner, to John Paſton, eſquire.
II.	19	75	Augnes Paſton, to John Paſton.
XIX.	21	76	John Oſbern, to John Paſton.
		77	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
XX.	31	78	W. Wyrceſtre, to John Paſton.
XIX.	16	79	Thomas Howys, to John Paſton, eſquire.
II.	25	80	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.

	Dates.	Paper Marks.	Paper-Marks. Pl. N°
33	May or June, between 1450 and 1460, 28 & 38 H. 6.	A ring.	XXII. 17
34	7 May, between 1450 and 1460, 28 and 38 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII. 2
35	29 June, between 1450 and 1460, 28 and 38 H. 6.	A pair of ſheers.	XI. 11
36	29 Dec. between 1450 and 1460, 29 and 39 H. 6.	A pair of ſheers.	XXII. 18
37	6 Oct. between 1451 and 1456, 30 and 35 H. 6.	A pillar and croſs.	XXI. 7
38	16 Nov. between 1444 and 1459, 23 and 38 H. 6.	A bull.	XXII. 16
39	5 November, 1452, 31 H. 6.	A bull.	XXII. 16
40	30 January, 1452, 31 H. 6.	A bull's head and ſtar.	XXII. 13
41	21 February, 1452, 31 H. 6.		
42	Probably between 1452 and 1454, 30 and 33 H. 6.		
43	6 July, 1453, 31 H. 6.	A bull's head and ſtar.	VIII. 2
44	6 July, 1453, 31 H. 6.		
45	6 March, 1453, 32 H. 6.		
46	12 April, 1454, 32 H. 6.		
47	About 1454, 32 H. 6.	A ſnake.	XXII. 11
48	17 May, 1454, 32 H. 6.		
49	29 June, 1454, 32 H. 6.	A bull's head and ſtar.	XXII. 15
50	29 June, 1454, 32 H. 6.	A bull's head and ſtar.	VIII. 12
51	29 June, or 28 December, 1454, 32 or 33 H. 6.		
52	11 July, 1454, 32 H. 6.		
53	15 July, 1454, 32 H. 6.		
54	6 September, 1454, 33 H. 6.	A bunch of grapes.	IX. 14
55	11 November, 1434, 33 H. 6.		
56	13 November, 1454, 33 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	XXII. 13
57	7 February, 1454, 33 H. 6.		
58	17 March, 1454, 33 H. 6.		
59	March, 1454, 33 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII. 2
60	24 June, about 1455, 33 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII. 2
61	23 July, 1455, 33 H. 6.		
62	26 July, 1455, 33 H. 6.		
63	about 1455, 33 H. 6.	A bull.	XXII. 16
64	25 November, 1455 or 1460, 34 or 39 H. 6.		
65	6 January, 1455, 34 H. 6.		
66	1455, 33 H. 6.	A bull's head and ſtar, &c.	X. 3
67	1455, 33 H. 6.	A bull's head and ſtar, &c.	X. 3
68	7 Sept. between 1455, and 1458, 34 and 37 H. 6.		
69	May or June, between 1455 & 1459, 33 & 38 H. 6.		
70	Auguſt, between 1455 and 1460, 33 and 39 H. 6.		
71	February, between 1455 and 1460, 34 and 39 H. 6.		
72	30 March, 1456, 34 H. 6.	Cap and Fleur de lys.	VIII. 4
73	31 March, 1456, 34 H. 6.		
74	1 May, 1456, 34 H. 6.		
75	8 March, 1457, 36 H. 6.	An anchor.	XXII. 12
76	Auguſt, between 1457 and 1460, 35 and 39 H. 6.	A bull.	XXII. 16
77	Before 1459, 37 H. 6.		
78	2 September, before 1459, 38 H. 6.	A bull's head and ſtar.	XXII. 15
79	2 September, before 1459, 38 H. 6.		
80	January, before 1459, 38 H. 6.		

Autographs. Pl.	N°		Letters From and to whom.
XX.	26	81	Elizabeth Ponynggs, to Agnes Paſton.
XX.	28	82	Hugh a Fenne, to John Paſton.
XX.	29	83	John Paſton, (elder ſon) to John Paſton, eſquire, his father.
II.	15	84	Sir John Faſtolf, to the duke of Norfolk.
XX.	25	85	John Brackle, to John Paſton, eſquire.
XX.	25	86	John Brackle, to John Paſton, eſquire.
II.	21	87	Willyam Paſton, to John Paſton.
XIX.	22	88	W. Wainfleet, biſhop of Winton, to . . . .
I.	8	89	Oxenford, John Vere, earl of, to John Paſton, eſquire.
I.	1	90	The king (Henry VI.) to John Paſton, eſquire.
I.	12	91	Scales (Thomas lord) to John Paſton, eſquire.
XX.	27	92	Ric. Suthwell, to John Paſton, eſquire.
II.	25	93	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
XX.	27	94	Ric. Suthwell, to John Paſton.
XIX.	18	95	John Jenney, to John Paſton, eſquire.
XX.	25	96	John Brackle, to John Paſton, eſquire.
XX.	25	97	John Brackle, to John Paſton, eſquire.
		98	John Brackle's Whitſunday ſermon.
XX.	32	99	Abbot of Langeley (Nicholas), to maſter John Stokes.
XX.	33	100	John (Titleſhale) prior of Bromholm, to John Paſton, eſquire.
XX.	33	101	John (Titleſhale) prior of Bromholm, to John Paſton, eſquire.
II.	25	102	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
II.	25	103	M(argaret Paſton) to John Paſton.
XX.	36	104	Wyllyam Nanton, to John Paſton.
XX.	35	105	T. with a device, to John Paſton.
II.	25	106	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
XX.	30	107	Edmond Paſton, to John Paſton, eſquire.
XVIII.	9	108	Ric. Calle, to John Paſton.
XX.	34	109	William Pryce, to John Paſton.
XIX.	24	110	. . . Pers, to ſir Robert Rokeſby.

	Dates.	Paper-Marks.	Paper-Marks. Pl.	N°
81	3 January, 1458, 37 H. 6.	A pair of ſcales within a circle.	XXII.	14
82	1 March, 1458, 37 H. 6.			
83	5 March, 1458, 37 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	XXII.	13
84	2 April, about 1459, 37 H. 6.			
85	. . . . 1459, 37 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII.	2
86	. . . . 1459, 38 H. 6.	A Flower.	XXI.	3
87	12 November, 1459, 38 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	XXII.	15
88	November or December, 1459, 38 H. 6.	A Bull.	IX.	10
89	17 May, before 1460, 38 H. 6.			
90	18 September, before 1460, 39 H. 6.	A bunch of grapes.	IX.	14
91	16 October, before 1460, 39 H. 6.			
92	18 December, before 1460, 39 H. 6.			
93	17 Auguſt, 1460, 38 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII.	2
94	6 October, about 1460, 39 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	XXII.	13
95	. . . before 1460, 38 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII.	2
96	. . . . . 1460, 39 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII.	2
97	23 October, 1460, 39 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII.	2
98	. . . . .	Wheels, cap, &c.	XXII.	10
99	8 May, 1460, 38 H. 6.	A pillar and croſs.	XXI.	7
100	14 October, 1460, 39 H. 6. or 1465, 5 E. 4.			
101	31 January, 1460, 39 H. 6.	A ring.	XXI.	4
102	1 February, 1460, 39 H. 6.	A catharine wheel.	XXI.	6
103	1 March, 1460, 39 H. 6.	A flower.	XXI.	3
104	. . . . date uncertain.	Bull's head and ſtar.	XXII.	13
105	3 December.			
106	May, ... H. 6.			
107	. . . . .	Bull's head and ſtar.	IX.	12
108	. . . . .			
109	June.			
110	. . . . .	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII.	2

A LIST of the PLATES and NUMBERS referring to the LETTERS, which have their AUTOGRAPHS engraved.

Autographs. Pl.	N°	Letters.	Autographs.
XVII.		1	A fac ſimile of the concluſion of the articles. H. Glouceſtre, Cromwell, J. Ebor, P. Elien, W. Lincoln. J. Bathon. Canc. J. Roſſen. Suffolk, H. Stafford, J. Huntyngton.
XVIII.	1	7	John Gyney.
	2	9	John Hauteyn, chapeleyn.
	3	10	Yo^{r} Coſyn Sr Roger Chamberleyn.
	4	14	Sr Robard Willya^{m}ſon.
	5	18	Robt. P. of B.—Robert, prior of Bromholm.
	6	23	J. D. and Gr.—John Damme and James Greſham.
	7	33	Wyngefeld J.—Sir John Wingfield.
	8	35	Alicie Crane.
	9	36, 108.	R. Calle.
	10	34	Joh Heveny^{n}gh^{a}m, knyght.
	11	37	W. Wayte.
	12	46	Your John Clopton.
XIX.	13	52	Edmond Grey, lord of Haſtynges, Waiſford, & of Ruthyn.
	14	50	Eliſabeth Clere.
	15	51	R. Dollay.
	16	27, 56, 79.	T. Howys.
	17	58	Be your good frend, the abbot of S. Benett's.
	18	60, 95.	John Jenney.
	19	70	Willia^{m} Tailboys.
	20	72	D. A. Ogard.—Dame Alice Ogard.
	21	76	John Oſbern.
	22	88	W. Winton.
	23	62	J. Byſshopp of Lincoln.
	24	110	. Pers.
XX.	25	85, 86, 96, 97.	Veſter ad vota promptiſſimus, Frater J. B. minorum minimus.
	26	81	Elizabeth Poninggs.
	27	92, 94.	Ric. Suthwell.
	28	82	Yo^{r} Hugh a Fenne.
	29	83	By your older ſone, John Paſton.
	30	107	Edmond Paſton.
	31	29, 78.	Yo^{r}. W. Wyrceſtre.
	32	99	Youre Preeſt, abbot of Langeley.
	33	100, 101.	Froom yor. preſte and bedeman, John p'our of Bromholm.
	34	109	Will^{a}m Pryce.
	35	105	By yor ſ^{r}vu^{n}t and brother, T. with a device.
	36	104	Wyllya^{m} Nanton.

A List of the Plates and Numbers referring to the Letters, which have their Paper-Marks engraved.

Paper-Marks. Pl.	No	Letters.	Paper-Marks.
XXI.	1	6	A bell.
	2	2	A fleur de lys, furmounted by a coronet.
	3	86, 103.	A flower.
	4	29, 101.	A ring.
	5	21, 24.	A pair of ſheers.
	6	102	A Catharine wheel.
	7	37, 99.	A pillar and croſs.
	8	25	A croſs and mound.
	9	17	Q? Some kind of flower.
XXII.	10	98	Wheels, &c. q?
	11	47	A ſnake.
	12	75	An anchor.
	13	39, 56, 83, 94.	A bull's head and ſtar.
	14	81	A pair of ſcales within a circle.
	15	27, 49, 78, 87.	A bull's head and ſtar.
	16	38, 44, 55, 63, 76	A bull.
	17	33	A ring.
	18	36	A pair of ſheers.

HENRY VI.

CONTENTS of the PLATES.

Plate.	Autographs, &c. Royal.—Noble.—Commoners.	Total.	Paper-Marks.	Total.	Seals, &c.
XVII.	1 9				
XVIII.	12				
XIX.	4 8				
XX.	12 } Editor 1 }		9		
XXI.			9		
XXII.					
XXIII.					9 1 & Let. }
	1 13 33	47	18	18	10, &.

HENRY VI.

Pl. XXIII. N°			Letters.
	1	Agnes Paſton. - - - Seal octangular, the impreſſion imperfect, but it appears to be the head of a king, or royal perſonage, having ſomething on the head reſembling a coronet or crown.	13, 45, 75.
	2	Henry VI. - - - - The royal arms, France and England quarterly, ſurmounted by a royal coronet, and encircled with a collar of SS. the whole ſurrounded by a braid of fine ſtraw. The four rays ſhew the marks of the faſtening thread.	90
	3	John Gyney. - - - An octangular Seal, having on it a merchant's mark.	7
	4	William Botoner. - - - The impreſſion of this ſeal on the paper is faint, but it appears to be St. John's head in a charger, the motto is illegible.	65
	5	Nicholas Abbot of Langley. - - The ſeal of the abbey of Langley, in Norfolk, it is on red wax, oval, but imperfect; it has a perſon ſitting under a gothic tabernacle; the circumſcription is too imperfect to be made out.	99
	6	Edmond Grey, lord of Haſtyngs, Waiſford, & of Rithyn. The impreſſion on red wax is defaced, but it is ſurrounded by a neat braid of ſtraw.	52
	7	Margaret Paſton. - - - A fleur de lys. The marks drawn by a pen, to prevent any perſon from opening it for fear of a diſcovery, are very particular. See Letter CIII. Note.	19, 71, 77. 80, 103.
	8	Richard Calle. - - - An eagle's head eraſed, having an eſcroll iſſuing from its mouth. Motto illegible.	36, 108.
	9	R. Dollay. - - - Arms, a cheveron between three roundles.	51

Pl. XXIII.		Letter.
	Richard Calle, to John Paſton.	
N°	10 The directed ſide of a Letter, folded and faſtened by a tapering ſtrip of paper, the narrow end of which is put into a hole cut through the Letter to the back or ſealed ſide, where the ſame narrow ends of the ſtrip are faſtened under the ſeal by the wax or wafer.	
	11 The broad end of the ſtrip of paper is then doubled over the end of the folded Letter, and on the back or ſealed ſide faſtened by the wax or wafer, and impreſſed by the ſeal, as here repreſented.	
	N. B. Many of the Letters have the ſtrip of paper faſtened by a ſtring or thread.	
	The ſeals are in this plate repreſented on the faſtening paper, and the ends of the ſtring or thread are viſible on many of them.	
	N. B. Thoſe Letters whoſe numbers do not appear in the liſts of the plates have their autographs, paper-marks and ſeals engraved on the plates at the end of the ſecond volume of this work, to which the reader is referred both from the letters and the catalogue.	

Arranging all the LETTERS, &c. written during the Reign of HENRY VI. which are contained in the I. and III. Volumes of this Work, nearly according to their Dates.

Letters. Vol. I.	Vol. III.	Dates.	Reign of H. VI.
	I.	29 November, 1432.	11
	II.	. . . 1434.	13
	III.	2 October, after 1434.	
I.		. . about 1440.	18
II.		1 November, 1440.	19
	IV.	. . after 1440.	
	V.	28 September, 1443.	22
	VI.	3 January, 1443.	
	VII.	February, before 1443.	
III.		. . . before 1444.	23
IV.		. . . beween 1440 and 1450.	
	VIII.	February, 1444.	
	IX.	. . . about 1445.	
	X.	15 September, after 1444.	
	XI.	29 October, after 1444.	
	XII.	30 October, between 1444 and 1454.	
V.		. . . between 1444 and 1455.	
VI.		. . . between 1444 and 1460.	
	XIII.	17 November, after 1444.	
	XIV.	. . . . after 1444.	
	XV.	. . . . after 1444.	
	XVI.	April, 1448.	26
VII.		18 October, 1449.	28
	XVII.	February, 1449.	
VIII.		12 March, 1449.	
	XVIII.	March, about 1449.	
	XIX.	April, about 1450.	
IX.		April, 1450.	
X.		5 May, 1450.	
XI.		6 May, 1450.	
XII.		27 May, 1450.	
XIII.		June and July, 1450.	
	XX.	19 August, 1450.	
	XXI.	15 October, 1450.	29
	XXII.	About October, 1450.	
	XXIII.	11 November, 1450.	
	XXIV.	4 December, 1450.	
	XXV.	2 January, 1450.	
	XXVI.	. . . 1450 or 1453.	
	XXVII.	9 May, 1451.	

Letters. Vol. I.	Letters. Vol. III.	Dates.	Reign of H. VI.
	XXVIII.	1 July, 1451.	
	XXIX.	7 July, about 1451.	
	XXX.	23 September, 1451.	30
XIV.		. . . . 1451.	
	XXXI.	. . . . between 1450 and 1454.	
	XXXII.	28 December, between 1450 and 1455.	
	XXXIII.	May or June, between 1450 and 1460.	
	XXXIV.	7 May, between 1450 and 1460.	
	XXXV.	29 June, between 1450 and 1460.	36
	XXXVI.	29 December, between 1450 and 1460.	
	XXXVII.	6 October, between 1451 and 1456.	
	XXXVIII.	16 November, between 1444 and 1459.	
XV.		21 April, 1452.	
	XXXIX.	5 November, 1452.	31
	XL.	30 January, 1452.	
	XLI.	21 February, 1452.	
XVI.		. . . 1452 or 1453.	
	XLII.	. . . between 1452 and 1454.	
	XLIII.	6 July, 1453.	
	XLIV.	6 July, 1453.	
	XLV.	6 March, 1453.	32
	XLVI.	About April, 1454.	
	XLVII.	. . . . .	
	XLVIII.	17 May, 1454.	
XVII.		8 June, 1454.	
	XLIX.	29 June, 1454.	
	L.	29 June, 1454.	
	LI.	29 June, or 28 December, 1454.	
	LII.	11 July, 1454.	
	LIII.	15 July, 1454.	
	LIV.	6 September, 1454.	
	LV.	11 November, 1454.	
	LVI.	13 November, 1454.	
XVIII.		10 January, 1454.	
	LVII.	7 February, 1454.	
	LVIII.	17 March, 1454.	
	LIX.	March, 1454.	
XIX.		2 November, before 1455.	
XX.		23 August, before 1460.	
XXI.		19 August, 1454, or 1455.	
XXII.		8 June.	
XXIII.		18 October, before 1455.	
XXIV.		25 May, 1453.	33
XXV.		June, 1455.	
	LX.	24 June, about 1455.	
XXVI.		20 July, 1455.	

Letters. Vol. I.	Letters. Vol. III.	Dates.	Reign of H. VI.
	LXI.	23 July, 1455.	
	LXII.	26 July, 1455.	
	LXIII.	About 1455.	34
XXVII.		28 October, 1455.	
	LXIV.	25 November, 1455.	
	LXV.	6 January, 1455.	
XXVIII.		5 February, 1455	
	LXVI.	. . . .	
	LXVII.	. . . .	
XXIX.		27 March, between 1454 and 1459.	
	LXVIII.	7 September, between 1454 and 1458.	
	LXIX.	May, or June, between 1455 and 1459.	
XXX.		24 July, between 1455 and 1460.	
	LXX.	August, between 1455 and 1460.	
	LXXI.	February, between 1455 and 1460.	
	LXXII.	30 March, 1456.	
	LXXIII.	31 March, 1456.	
	LXXIV.	1 May, 1456.	
XXXI.		15 May, 1456.	
XXXII.		7 June, 1456.	
XXXIII.		10 August, 1456.	
XXXIV.		5 July, 1457.	35
XXXV.		28 January, 1457.	38
XXXVI.		24 January, 1457.	
XXXVII.		1 February, 1459.	
	LXXV.	8 March, 1457.	
XXXVIII.		15 March, 1457.	
	LXXVI.	August, between 1457 and 1460.	
XXXIX.		1 June, 1458.	
XL.		13 May, before 1460.	
	LXXVII.	. . before 1459.	
	LXXVIII.	2 September, before 1459.	
	LXXIX.	2 September, before 1459.	
XLI.		18 November, before 1459.	
XLII.		17 July, before 1459.	
XLIII.		August, before 1459.	
	LXXX.	January, before 1459.	
	LXXXI.	3 January, 1458.	37
	LXXXII.	1 March, 1458.	
	LXXXIII.	5 March, 1458.	
	LXXXIV.	2 April, about 1459.	
XLIV.		29 April, 1459.	
	LXXXV.	. . 1459.	
	LXXXVI.	. . 1459.	
	LXXXVII.	12 November, 1459.	38
	LXXXVIII.	November, or December, 1459.	

Letters. Vol. I.	Letters. Vol. III.	Dates.	Reign of H. VI.
XLV.		7 December, 1459.	
XLVI.		January, 1459.	
XLVII.		29 January, 1459.	
XLVIII.		13 June, between 1457 and 1460.	
	LXXXIX.	17 May, before 1460.	
	XC.	18 September, before 1460.	
	XCI.	16 October, before 1460.	
	XCII.	18 December, before 1460.	
XLIX.		24 March, before 1460.	
L.		8 March, before 1460.	
	XCIII.	17 August, 1460.	
	XCIV.	6 October, about 1460.	
	XCV.	. . . before 1460.	
LI.		12 October, 1460.	39
	XCVI.	. . . 1460.	
	XCVII.	23 October, 1460.	
	XCVIII.	. . . . .	
	XCIX.	8 May, 1460.	
	C.	14 October, 1460.	
LII.		29 January, 1460.	
	CI.	31 January, 1460.	
	CII.	1 February, 1460.	
	CIII.	1 March, 1460.	
LIII.		. . . . .	
	CIV.	. . . . .	
	CV.	3 December.	
	CVI.	May.	
	CVII.	. . . . .	
	CVIII.	. . . . .	
	CIX.	June.	
	CX.	. . . H. VI. or E. IV.	

END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.

Autographs

Henry VI ..... 1422 —— 1460.

and not dbelle in hony ye fyfte conceit or opinion wythout his desert and wythout answere.

Pno · it is agreed
H. Gloucestre

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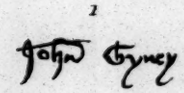
Suffolk & Stafford

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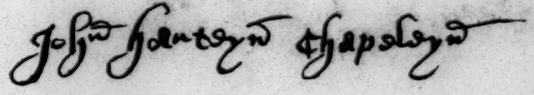
Autographs.

Henry VI.....*1422—1460*

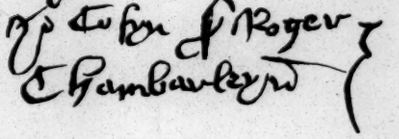
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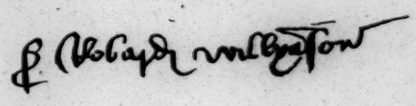
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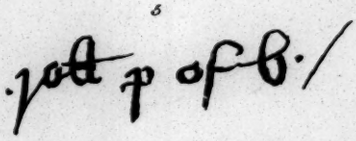
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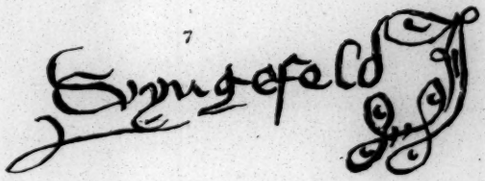
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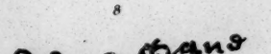
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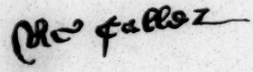
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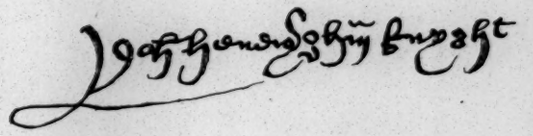
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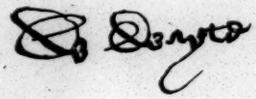
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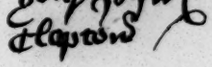
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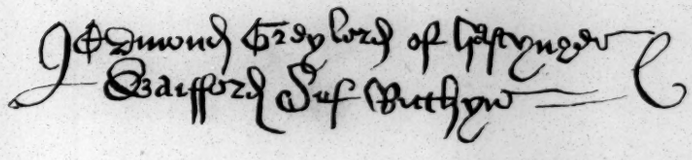
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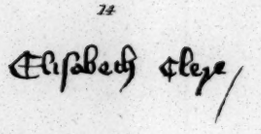
Autographs.

Henry VI.....1422—1460.

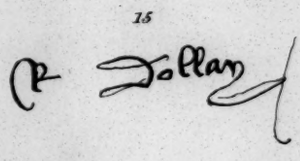
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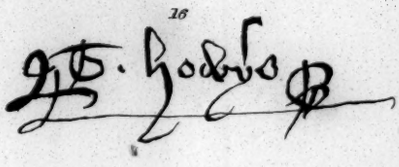
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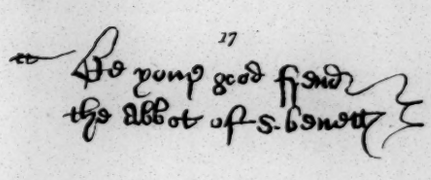
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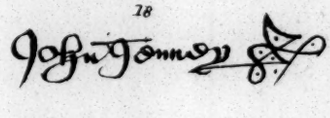
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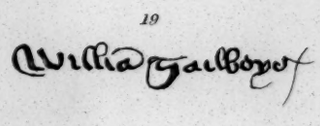
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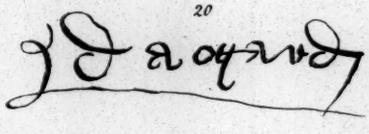
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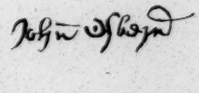
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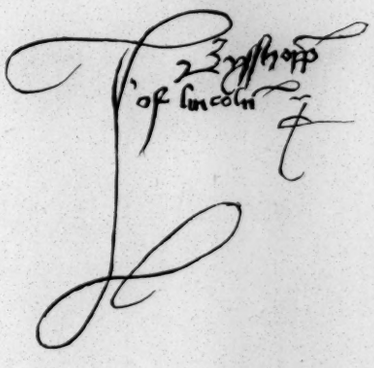
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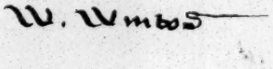
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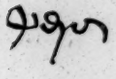
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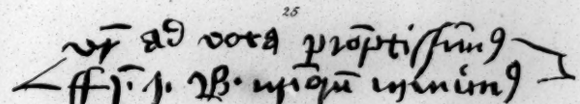
I. Penn. del.

Cook. sculp

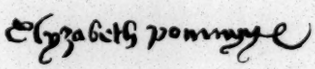
Autographs.

Henry VI.....1422—1460.

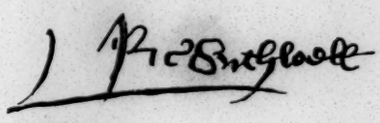
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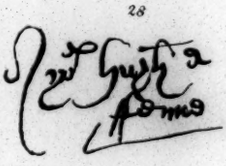
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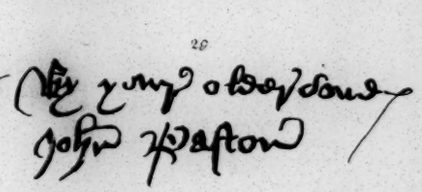
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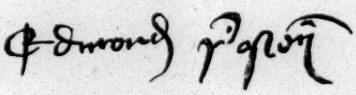
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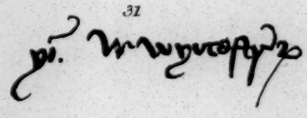
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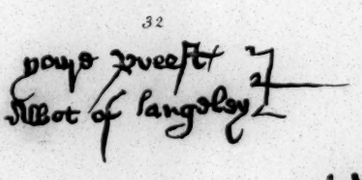
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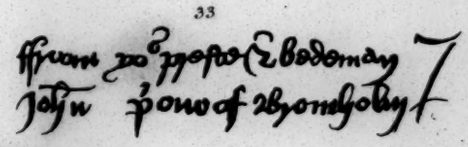
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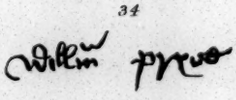
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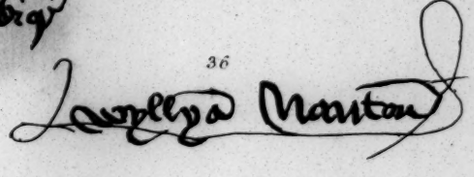
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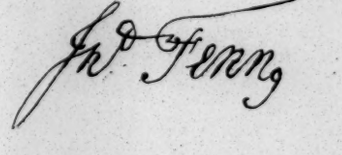
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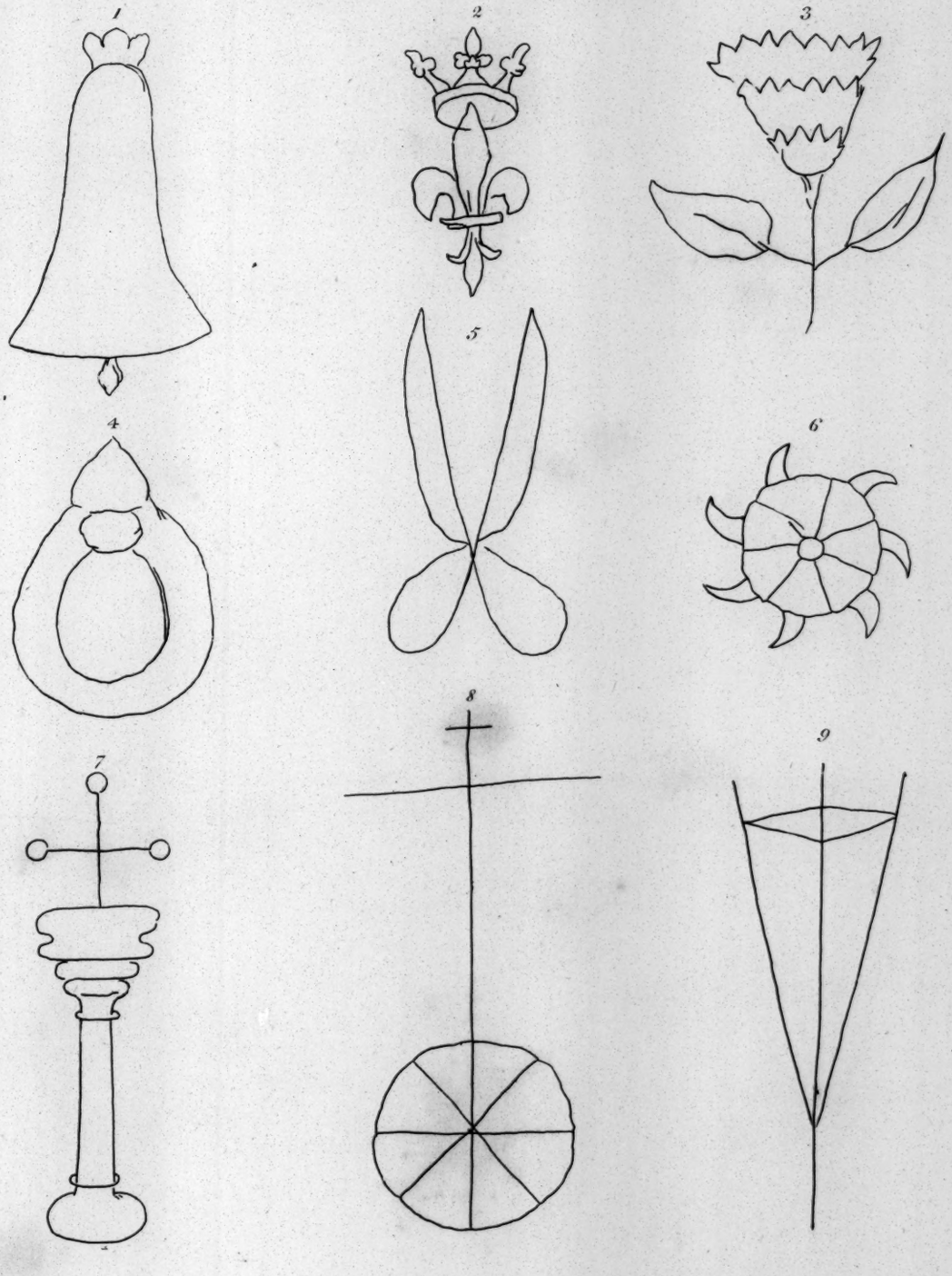


These Autographs were all copied from the Originals in April 1788 by the Editor



Paper Marks.

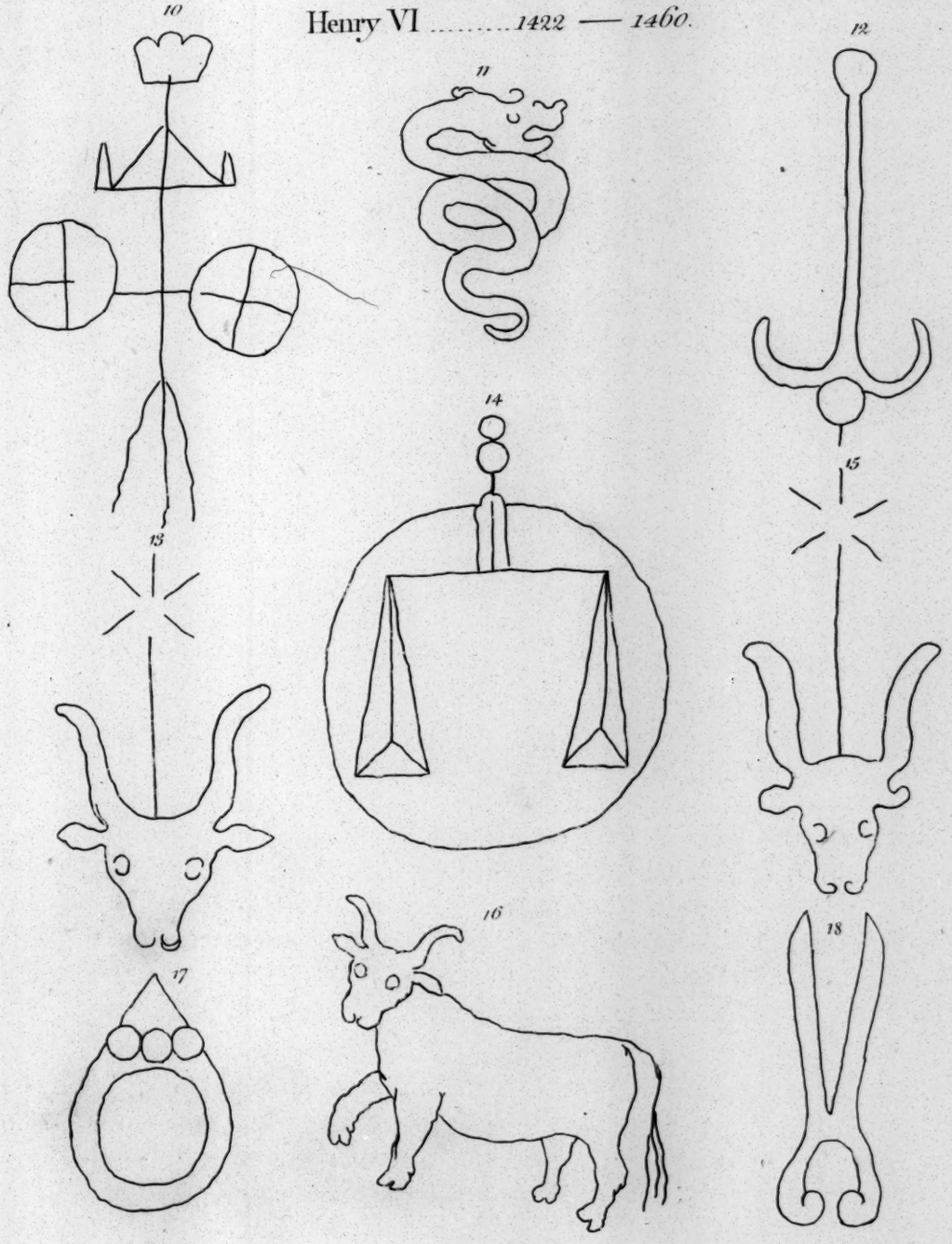
Henry VI.....*1422 — 1460.*



I.Fenn del. *Cook sculp.*

Paper Marks.

Henry VI ..... 1422 — 1460.



I. Fenn del.

Cook. sculp.

Seals.

Henry VI.

